

# Robotics world here

Students from across Australia to do battle in national championships



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

WANGARATTA will host the biggest VEX Robotics event ever held in Australia tomorrow, with more than 60 teams to put their creations to the test.

The rural city will be represented by Borinya Community Partnership and Galen Catholic College in the Australian National VEX Robotics Championships, which run from 10am to 3pm at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Digital Technologies Advisory Committee (DTAC) Wangaratta has been working closely with VEX Australia and DATTA Vic (Design and Technology Teachers Association) to stage the event, which calls on students to design, build and program a robot to complete a specified challenge.

Teamwork and collaboration are the key to success, with each team randomly drawn an alliance partner for each match.

This means students must work together with a group of students they may never have met, to come up with a winning strategy based on the design element of each of their robots.

Last year's national championships were also held in Wangaratta, a spin-off from



TEAMWORK: Borinya students Ruby Mercer and Kurtis Beckhouse work on their VEX robot in the lead-up to Saturday's national championships.

the first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Expo held in the city, and both Galen and Borinya made it to the grand final with their alliance partners.

Borinya teacher Alison Press said the skills students gathered through the challenge were vital.

"It helps their teamwork skills and social interaction skills," Ms Press said.

"A lot of our kids have anxiety issues, so to see them

put in such a challenging environment last year, I was so proud of them.

"Even in preparing for the championships, it's building resilience, as they test something and it might not work, so they're bouncing back and trying something new."

Borinya students have been working each Tuesday on preparing their robot.

Galen students have also been busy preparing their robot, and teacher Maree

Timms, who is also a member of DTAC, said their enthusiasm was contagious.

"It's the collaboration that goes into the project that is the best aspect," Ms Timms said.

"Because our entries have grown from one to three teams this year, the students who were involved last year are great at supporting the junior teams.

"It's that camaraderie that's great to see."

Ms Timms said those attending tomorrow's event, the

winner of which will progress to the world championships in the USA, could expect an entertaining display of skill.

"It's just a great atmosphere, and people will see students being absolutely amazing; the team, the robot design means everything about STEM is there on show," she said.

The championships feature categories for primary, secondary and university students.

## Library books on sale tomorrow

THE Friends of Wangaratta Library are holding a book and DVD sale, with everything \$2, tomorrow from 9.30am to noon at the Wangaratta Library.

There will be a large range of second-hand adult fiction, non-fiction and children's books to choose from.

All money raised will assist the library in purchasing equipment and programming.

## Join the orchid society Sunday

IF you've ever considered joining the Wangaratta and District Orchid Society, come along to the group's Christmas party on Sunday, from noon at Batchelor's Green.

The society's final event of the year is open to anyone, with prospective new members especially welcome.

Meat and tea/coffee will be supplied, and those attending are asked to bring a chair/table, cutlery, salad and sweet, as well as a small Christmas gift.

There will be orchids on display, which will be later raffled. For more information call Helen Ellis on 5726 9169.

## Meet and greet for new service

ABORIGINAL families experiencing mental health, drug and alcohol problems can now access a support service in Wangaratta thanks to an Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS) program.

The Wangaratta community can join AWAHS at a public meet and greet at NESAY's Rowan Street offices from 1-3pm today.

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# Education Feature TERM ONE 2018

## Galen leading way in STEM and robotics

GALEN Catholic College prides itself on leading the way in STEM education in North East Victoria, and is among the fastest growing hubs for rich learning experiences.

After the great success of Galen's VEX Robotics Team at the National Championships in December last year, the team has been busy preparing for their trip abroad to the 2018 World VEX Robotics Championships in Kentucky, USA from April 25-28.

While the team has gained great recognition in the local community, thanks to the generous support of businesses and locals at fundraising events, the team has also gained international attention, catching the eye of the US VEX officials.

"The hosting and smooth running of the 2016 and 2017 National VEX Robotics Championships here in Wangaratta was the start of the connection between Galen and

the Americans," Galen teacher Maree Timms said.

"They watched as VEX Robotics grew in the region, with three local teams at the start of 2017, to 15 teams in 2018 and still growing.

"Galen has now hosted two professional development workshops to compliment this growth and interest from schools in the region."

In December last year, Galen's VEX team was one of 200 schools worldwide offered the opportunity to beta test new software and hardware for the 2018 VEX season.

"3000 schools around the world applied to be part of the beta trial, so we were pretty chuffed to be one of the 200 selected schools," Maree said.

She added that Galen VEX is certainly leading the way in North East Victoria, and making the most of the many opportunities presented to them.



**AHEAD OF THE PACK:** Galen's team of six VEX Robotics students who'll be competing at the VEX Robotics World Championships USA in April after their success at the National Championships in December last year. Pictured are (back, from left) Erin Chadban, Jye Spinks, Mitchell Currie-Fraser, and (front, from left) Madalynn Baumanis, Rutvik Chaudhary and Lachlan Carboon.

## Year 7 (2019) Enrolments at Galen



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# Galen, Borinya students to hit national robotics stage

By SIMONE KERWIN

STUDENTS from Galen Catholic College and Borinya Wangaratta Community Partnership will be aiming to continue their successful run this weekend, when they compete in the VEX Robotics National Championship in Adelaide.

Galen's five teams, and two from Borinya, which competed at the North East Southern Riverina championships held in Wangaratta in October, have won through to the nationals.

They will compete this weekend for the chance to represent Australia at the 2020 world championships to be held in Louisville, Kentucky in April.

The locals will be joined in their trek across the border by teams from St Anne's Primary School in Albury, and two from Wodonga Middle Years.

Meanwhile, year 12 Galen

student Madalynn Baumanis has been asked to be the judges' advisor during this week's nationals at the Adelaide Convention Centre, which run from Friday through to Sunday.

Maddy's role is crucial to the event, and recognises her skills in connecting and engaging with people.

VEX robotics organisers have confidence in her ability to explain the values and ideals of the competition, as they have seen her shine on the world stage as a team captain at the 2018 VEX worlds, and then as a volunteer judge at the 2019 worlds.

Maddy's role in Adelaide will involve guiding 20 judges from relevant STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) industries through the VEX robotics judging process, and coordinating their organisation and time management during the three day event.



**NATIONAL STAGE:** Galen Catholic College year 12 student Maddy Baumanis, with VEX Worlds volunteer coordinator Taunya Weber, has been asked to be judges' advisor at this weekend's Australian VEX Robotics National Championship in Adelaide.

## Bright Brewery into tourism hall of fame, with others businesses lauded

By LEAH ANDERSON BYRNE

BRIGHT Brewery has been inducted into the RACV Victorian Tourism Hall of Fame after being named the state's best Tourism Brewery/Winery/Distillery for the third consecutive year.

Bright Brewery founder Scott Brandon said he was thrilled with the Gold Award and immensely

proud to have been inducted into the Victorian Tourism Hall of Fame.

"To win this award for the third year in a row is great recognition of all the hard work we've put into building our business and helping drive tourism to our region," he said.

The brewery wasn't the only winner from the North East at the annual awards last week.

Also taking away a gold award

was the Alpine nature experience Igloo to Skidoo; silver awards went to the Falls Creek All Season Resort for Major Tourist Attractions, Ride High Country for destination marketing and the Cheeky Fox Retreat for Hosted Accommodation.

This year also saw the introduction of two RACV People's Choice awards; voted by the public, with more than 11,000 votes cast

with one of the 2019 winners being Beechworth Lake Sambell Caravan Park - much to the delight of owners Roger and Sue Humphris.

With the business started 14 years ago, Mr Humphris said the win was a wonderful reward for the pair and their dedicated staff.

"It's a great boost for us, for Beechworth and the region," he said.

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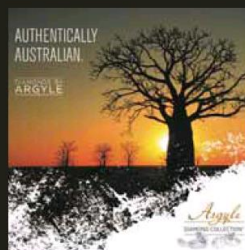
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# Students take on robotics challenge

By ANITA McPHERSON

YOUNG students with a thirst for knowledge and an interest in technology took part in the Robotics and Coding Holiday Program held at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre this week.

It's the fifth time the Galen Catholic College VEX team and Digital Technology Advisory Committee (DTAC) have held the popular program, which takes place in the July and January school holidays.

Coordinator Maree Timms said the program continues to gain momentum, with some families who couldn't make it to this session asking to be put on the list for January, 2020.

She said each time the program has attracted a full house of 25 participants, with Galen VEX students volunteering to act as mentors during their holidays.

"We are so proud of our Galen VEX kids - they love sharing their knowledge and this year we have a whole swag of enthusiastic year sevens coming along to be mentors as well as some of our old hands," she said.

"This year we have also got mentors who do not go to Galen, they are past participants - they loved the program so much they



CODEBREAKERS: Enjoying the program were Cashen Monk (12), Hamish Ormond (11) and Toby Beggs (12, at back).

asked if they could be involved again."

Ms Timms said it was really exciting two of those additional mentors were females embracing STEM studies, including Alison

Jones, a fourth time program participant in grade six at Wangaratta Primary School, and Zoe Baguley from Wangaratta High School, who has fitted in well with Galen VEX crew.

The two day program is designed to give grade five and six students an introduction to VEX IQ robotics and to explore technology in a collaborative and social environment.

## Rutherglen winemakers plan for positive future

REPRESENTATIVE group Winemakers of Rutherglen is predicting growth and a bright future for the local industry, based on data revealed in a strategic planning workshop held last week.

Members of Winemakers of Rutherglen came together to begin work on their latest strategic plan, with data and performance figures underpinning an optimistic future ahead.

With more than 60 per cent of Rutherglen's wineries predicting employment and organisational growth, more than 50 per cent looking to invest in more vineyard plantings, and many stating they had a focus on developing their direct to consumer and cellar door engagement, the workshop was a chance for members to talk about their priorities and develop an action plan for future prosperity.

Winemakers of Rutherglen's executive officer Natalie Ajay said the workshop was an exciting step for the organisation.

"With 19 member wineries and more than 160 years of history, the reason we're still here is because we've embraced change and innovation," she said.

"This strategic process continues that tradition."

With key themes around marketing, tourism, education and community, the Winemakers of Rutherglen say they will use their renewed strategic plan to drive action locally, nationally and internationally to support member wineries and the wider Rutherglen community.

Ms Ajay said there was also a clear directive from the members of Winemakers of Rutherglen to support industry and to provide advocacy for members both big and small, with a focus on ensuring the operating environment for the Australian wine industry was conducive to community engagement, regional development and economic growth.

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POP CULTURE: Jasen Smith and Lachlan Carboon with one of the robots from Galen's robotics team. PHOTO: Emma Hillier

## Get your geek on

By LEAH ANDERSON-BYRNE

NOW is the time to begin preparations for Wangaratta Library's Geek convention this April.

Last year's GeekCon saw up to 800 people in attendance celebrating pop culture including anime, cartoons and comics.

This year there will be robotics, drones, cosplay, giveaways, prizes to be won and two guest authors who will be speaking on the day.

The library's Monster March Raffle winner will also be drawn on the day.

Jasen Smith from Wangaratta Library said this is a great opportunity for young people and the wider community.

"This event offers the people of Wangaratta a convention not usually seen in small communities; it allows an open access to the town," he said.

Wangaratta Library's third annual Geek-Con will be running in conjunction with the Victorian Youth Week this year after receiving funding of \$2000 from the State Government.

The library is asking for anyone that sells or creates things related to pop culture to grab an expression of interest form from the front desk and be a stallholder at the event.

Victorian Youth Week (formally National Youth Week) is being held from Friday, April 13 to Sunday, April 22, with GeekCon being held on Saturday, April 14.

## What was in the news last week

### Doubt remains over \$100 million North East rail upgrade

PLENTY of concerns about the North East rail line project despite the apparent completion of the scope of works for the \$100 million repair and upgrade.

Cathy McGowan (MHR, Ind) on Thursday, February 22 called on state and federal governments to work with each other to "urgently define and determine" how all funding requirements for the upgrade will be met.

### Motorists avoid fines as staff diverted to storm clean-up

MOTORISTS who did not pay for parking in December may have escaped punishment due to staffing shortages in the rural city.

Council resources were diverted to the clean-up of the December storms and along with other staff shortages, which resulted in an early Christmas present for motorists failing to feed their parking meters.

### Offenders apologise for crimes, refused bail

TWO Melbourne men fronted Wangaratta Magistrates Court last Monday after rolling their car trying to evade police the week before in Glenrowan.

Bayram Birsoz and Jeffrey Cauchi had been in custody since the incident and were facing multiple charges including theft, drug possession, obtaining property by deception and reckless conduct.

### Relieved resident praises firefighters after valley fire

THE owner of the private property first affected by the fire that swept through Myrrehe and the King Valley last week lauded firefighters for saving her home.

Bobbie Titcher, who lives on Patterson Lane near Boggy Creek Road, has lived on her owner-built corrugated iron house since the mid-90s and has always dreaded fire danger due to its proximity to a 200-acre section of conservation land.

### McCurdy joins push for WISAC upgrade

TIM McCurdy (MLA, Ovens Valley) has organised a petition calling for funding for an upgrade and extension of the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre to meet current and future demand.



If you're travelling over summer, it's your responsibility to be fire ready.

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# Education Feature

## TERM ONE 2018

# STEM in the spotlight at CSU

YOU may have heard of the term STEM, but you may not know what it means.

Many think STEM is technology and coding.

At the least, it means Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, but it also stands for much more than that.

According to the team at Charles Sturt University (CSU), it is a way of thinking, it is the skills students use to learn these subjects, and how these processes and principles are used.

In a STEM classroom, students identify problems and create solutions, designing, building, testing and re-designing solutions to the problems they have identified.

STEM learning is inquiry based, critical thinking and problem solving, involving perseverance.

CSU emphasises the importance of STEM learning because future jobs in a changing world need these skills.

Australia's Chief Scientist, Ian Chubb, said in 2013 that "STEM is everywhere."

"Our nourishment, our safety, our homes and neighbours, our relationships with family and friends, our health, our jobs, our leisure are all profoundly shaped by technological innovation and the discoveries of science."



**PRACTICAL LEARNING:** Primary school students learning while having fun at Charles Sturt University's recent holiday Robotics and Coding program.

Research shows STEM students are creative, flexible and able to take advantage of changes predicted in future workplaces.

Jobs from accounting, construction, nursing, to hair dressing all use STEM skills – let alone what future jobs might be.

As technology and IT disrupt more and more industries, there's concern Australia won't have enough STEM-qualified people to

fulfil certain roles in the future.

The key is to get students interested in STEM, as "you can't be what you can't see".

To get students excited about STEM and consider their future career options, CSU are holding ongoing STEM related activities at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre.

Explore the STEM program of interesting and engaging activities at [bit.ly/2F3pPII](http://bit.ly/2F3pPII).



1. Off the blocks: Galen's annual twilight Swimming Carnival was a great college community event, with students qualifying for the Upper Hume competitive level swimming.



2. Settling in: Galen's new Year 7s have quickly settled in well, learning and collaborating in the new Junior School buildings, well-equipped Resource Centre and inspiring outdoor settings.



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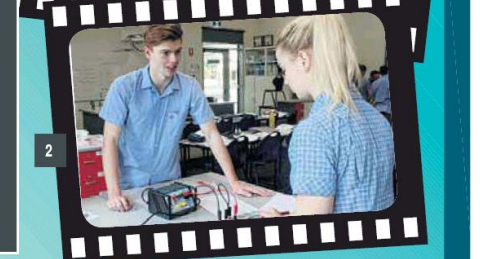


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1. Middle School students Jack Allen, Austen Harper, Matteo Venance and Leam Hughes meet before school for the popular game of Downball.



2. VCE Physics students James O'Connell and Suzanne Thompson commence a Unit on Electrical Physics as part of their Unit One studies.



## Wangaratta Chronicle facebook.

FACEBOOK users this week commented on for the Wangaratta Chronicle's April fool's joke where an imaginary local consortium was seeking support from the Rural City of Wangaratta Council to install a statue of Nick Cave in the centre of town.

**Dan Walton:** No, I don't think so...  
**Daniel Lloyd:** Ridiculous.  
**Craig McDonald:** Perhaps include Kylie Minogue and place it at Maccas (sic) where the wild roses grow...🌹

**Kate Michelle Paola:** 🤔 surely not 🤔 come on  
**Kim Winnell:** What for he denigrated (sic)Wangaratta.  
**Kristie Campbell:** I assume it's an April fools  
**Maus Bott:** You have got to be kidding  
**Terri Norris:** No way. Happy April fools (sic) day joke.....  
**Ashley Gojira Shearer:** Wangaratta council probably haven't heard his opinion of 'their' town....  
**Steve Giffin:** Good one 🤔🤔  
**Jackie Stevens:** Let's hope not!

**Morgan Ravenwolf Jansson:** Why not the banjo playing kid from Deliverance? Keeping the narrative 🤔  
**Sue Tomisich Northfield:** Please no  
**Craig Musselwhite:** The guy hates Wangaratta, why waste money honouring him. Surely this is a late edition and in poor taste to April fools (sic) day.  
**Glenn Kneebone:** A fitting tribute to an artist who is a world-wide phenomenon.  
**Megan Fry:** No thanks  
**Marty Corboy:** 01/04....

**Alison J. Williams:** Most of the people commenting obviously didn't read what he said about Wang on his last visit.  
**Heidrun Kneebone:** You have to be joking? In any other town I would think April fools (sic) day....but in Wangaratta who knows.  
**Jesse Stevens:** You would think it would be an April fools (sic) joke but with wangs (sic) council we have to take this serious  
**Julie Hourigan:** What a waste of money



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Check out some of our best photos at our @wangchronicle Instagram account.

## Wangaratta's top tweets

TWITTER users this week tweeted about everything from teleneuropsychology to sport.

🐦 Rene Stolwyk @rene\_stolwyk  
 So excited teleneuropsychology is scaling up to Albury Wodonga, Wangaratta and LaTrobe Regional Health! Fantastic kickstart workshop today. All systems go!

🐦 GalenVEX @GalenVEX  
 Woooo hooooo.... thanks to @FordAustralia STEAM innovation Lab, and our friends at Education Advantage, Wangaratta Engineering their \$\$\$ have got us out to our Target of \$35,000 with three weeks to spare! thanks to all our other sponsors and supporters!

🐦 Lisbeth Long @warby\_gourmet  
 Terrific to see North Wangaratta Football ground back in action. Despite cold, blustery weather ground looked fantastic and good turnout #northwangfc @wangchronicle



If you have something to say, add our handle @wangchronicle to your tweet and we will publish some each week.

## Tweet



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Bike Ed is back! The perfect start to #activeapril Thanks @RoadSafeNE for lending out the Bike Ed trailer



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# Female teens explore cyber security career



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

CAREERS in information security could be on the horizon for an increasing number of local young women, following a Girls in Cyber Security Advancing (GiCSA) workshop held in Wangaratta last week.

The three day workshop at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre involved 11 female year nine and 10 students from Galen College and the Wangaratta High School, and aimed to instil not only everyday skills they can use now, but inspiration to pursue roles in the sector.

Funded by the Federal Government, the GiCSA project is being led by Charles Sturt University, and associate head of CSU's school of computing and mathematics, Tanveer Zia, said the girls involved in this week's sessions had been enthusiastic about their learning.

Professor Zia said the project was part of CSU's Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship Program, and was designed to help eliminate barriers for women's participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education and careers.

Currently, only 11 per cent of all information security jobs are held by women, and more than half



WAY OF THE FUTURE: Taylah Jenkin (14) and Rose Dennehy (15), along with fellow Girls in Cyber Security Advancing (GiCSA) workshop participants, have enjoyed the chance to explore their future career options. PHOTO: Mel Guy

of those are administration or non-managerial positions.

"We wanted to run these workshops in regional areas, with the idea of promoting awareness about cyber security to young people, especially if they want to go on to a career in this field," Professor Zia said.

"It gives them awareness of what sort of hacks are out there, what sort of protection they should have, and what kinds of jobs are available to them."

Professor Zia said skills often exhibited by females,

including creativity and communication abilities, could be extremely useful in cyber security roles.

"So why not use those skills in a career that can be exciting and really rewarding, including in defence and with law enforcement agencies," he said.

"We are working with this age group (years nine and 10) as this is the time they are deciding where they will go with their future careers."

Among the participants in the workshop this week was

Galen College year nine student Taylah Jenkin, who said the experience had definitely strengthened her resolve to pursue a career in cyber security.

"I'm looking at maybe being a malware analyst, and I'm doing IT and forensic at school at the moment, so it's definitely something I'm interested in," she said.

"I've really enjoyed the hands-on stuff and coding." Taylah said she was also interested in the challenge offered to students who attended the workshop,

which could lead to them taking part in a further three day course in Wagga.

Those chosen for the next stage would have the chance to meet with cyber security leaders and receive information about using their skills to establish their own businesses and become entrepreneurs.

"We are running 10 of these regional workshops - Wangaratta is the second - and 16 girls from them will be chosen to go to Wagga, based on their performance in an online challenge," Professor Zia said.

## Join in wildlife rescue session

FRIENDS of Winton Wetlands will hold an information session giving participants the chance to learn how to help injured wildlife on Saturday, March 16 from 10.30am.

Presented by Shirley Steegstra from Benalla Wildlife Rescue, learn how to check a kangaroo's pouch safely for a joey (live animals may not be present) with those attending asked to bring along any old blankets, towels or pillow cases for Shirley to help keep the rescued animals comfortable and cosy.

All ages are welcome and following the morning's presentation there is also a chance to get active and help clean up and conserve the environment around Winton Wetlands, with a light lunch provided.

The information session will run from 10.30am until 11.30am with the clean up taking place from 11.30am, meeting at the Education Centre, 652 Lake Mokoan Road in Chesney Vale, with RSVP via email to friends@wintonwetlands.org.au or visit them on Facebook.

## A night for orchid lovers

THE next meeting of the Wangaratta and District Orchid Society Inc will be held on Wednesday, March 13 at St Patrick's Hall, Ford Street, Wangaratta, opposite Big W carpark.

Doors will open at 6.30pm for setting up and benching of plants by 7.15pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

A DVD of warm growing orchids from the sub-tropics/tropics is the topic for the evening.

There will also be raffles and a jackpot draw.

Experts will be available for any questions or problems.

Visitors are welcome to come along for free advice, supper and to enjoy the company of other orchid enthusiasts.

For more information contact president Gary Luke on 5745 8393 or secretary Meg Kerr on 5744 2089.

## Public session on Inland Rail

THE Australian Rail Track Corporation will continue its community sessions in Wangaratta on the Inland Rail today.

A public session was to be held at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre last night, and another session is on today from 11.30am to 1.30pm.

## Interlock condition imposed

A WANGARATTA man had his driver's licence application granted at Wangaratta Magistrates' Court on Thursday.

The applicant told the court he had lost his licence for 20 months in 2010 for a drink driving offence, but hadn't applied to receive it since he became eligible.

"At the time I had a drug habit and was in a bad place, it wasn't the right time," the applicant said, explaining he'd been clean for two years now, abstaining from alcohol.

The man was granted his driver's licence application, with a six month interlock condition.

## Discovering our Ovens River

A TWO day research symposium in Wangaratta tomorrow and Friday will explore the special cultural and natural values of our Ovens River.

The free event, focused on the heritage river, is being run by La Trobe University, CSU and North East CMA, and will feature presentations on the current research in hydrology, ecology, biodiversity and related fields in the Ovens River.

The symposium is at the GOTAFE/Charles Sturt University campus and will also include a river visit.

## Small business fair on

THE Department of Jobs and Small Business is hosting a Small Business Fair in Wodonga tomorrow at The Cube from 7.30am-1pm

The fair is a one-stop-shop where people, who want to start or grow their business, can speak with locally-based government agencies about simplifying taxes, using digital marketing and e-commerce tools, and selling to government.

To book your free place call (02) 6121 3979 or visit smallbusinessfair.jobs.gov.au.

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■ Galen excels at Australian Robotics Championships with seven awards and they're...

# Off to VEX worlds again

GALEN Catholic College will be represented at the VEX Robotics World Championships in the USA again next year, after a team of junior students took out a national title on the weekend.

Along with the place at next April's worlds in Kentucky (USA), Galen brought home seven awards from the VEX Australian National Championships, which ran from Friday to Sunday in Melbourne.

Day one of Galen's campaign did not go to plan, with the junior team discovering after checking in that its robot was oversized.

But after overcoming initial panic, the team ensured its robot was modified and legal, and eventually had its robot ready for the field and performing better than it had been previously.

"It was amazing seeing them work as a team to get back into the game," teacher Maree Timms said.

Teacher Brett Webber agreed: "It was a great display of resilience and problem solving, embodying everything that VEX is about."

After competing throughout the weekend, the Galen team won the VEX IQ excellence award, for top



**THAT WINNING FEELING:** Galen College's successful VEX crew, (back) Maree Timms, Mitchell Currie Fraser, Hunter Richardson, Jye Spinks, Paris McLaurin, Jorja O'Connor, Madalynn Baumanis, Brett Webber, Rose Dennehy; (second row) Ashley Carboon, Damien French, Tristan Roleff, Rutvik Chaudhary; (seated) Heath French, Andre Roleff, Chiara Lestino, James Parker, Lachlan Carboon, Mitchell Hobbs; (front) Harsh Chaudhary and Ryan Falconer, at the 2018 Australian National Championships held in Melbourne last weekend, where they qualified to compete in next year's VEX world championships.

all-round team, robot performance and judged (world championship qualification); VEX IQ robot skills champion award, for top combined programming and driving skills (world championship qualification); VEX IQ teamwork finalist, runners-up

in the finals; VRC amaze award, for the team with an amazing, well-rounded and top performing robot; VRC create award, for the robot with a creative engineering solution; and VRC promote award, for the team which has best showcased VEX

robotics in the community.

The seventh award was the VRC teachers of the year award, presented to Maree Timms and Brett Webber, whose passion and dedication has enabled Galen to achieve in this area.

Galen's junior VEX IQ

team 48327W will head to the world championships in April next year, a year after the school sent its first national representatives to Kentucky, and the students are excited about the opportunity ahead.

Comprising year eights Paris McLaurin and Jorja O'Connor,

and year sevens Chiara Lestino and James Parker, this team is ranked 49th in the world, out of 1626 teams.

Their hard work has paid off, after working on their robot since July during many recess, lunch and after school sessions.

Also at the nationals, year 11 Galen student Madalynn Baumanis was the FORD #GirlPowered Champion at the event.

She played a key part in the opening ceremony by being part of the #GirlPowered Q&A session with Lee Constable, presenter of Channel 10 science show 'Scope', and a Girls in STEM Advocate.

Year 11 students Rutvik Chaudhary and Tristan Roleff took on the roles of MC and commentators on the day, and got to teach Lee Constable the technical side of VEX, commenting alongside her on Saturday. On Sunday, they commented all the finals matches.

Year 10 student Harsh Chaudhary and former Galen student Kyle Fry worked as vision operators, running the live feed to the big screens over the weekend, while parent Phil Richardson was also there, running the Tournament Manager software, maintaining match results and rankings.

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## Celebrating our people – McDonald's Wangaratta

**McDonald's Wangaratta**  
Restaurant Manager Deepak Gaba is excited to welcome a new addition to his Management Team – Shana Wright. Shana recently returned from Melbourne after completing a training course at McDonald's Head Office. During this course she learnt the importance of Customer Experience, Operational Excellence, Shift Management and Food Safety amongst other key skills.

Shana is an outstanding ambassador for McDonald's Wangaratta and now has the opportunity to gain further experience, learn new skills and aspire to future roles such as Restaurant Manager.

Shana started her McDonald's journey as a crew person back in 2016 and is looking forward to an exciting career as a Manager in the fast-paced environment that offers great future opportunities.



**NEW ADDITION:** New manager Shana Wright with Restaurant Manager Deepak Gaba at the Wangaratta Store



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## Wangaratta Chronicle facebook.

NOTE: Comments as they appear online, without corrections.

FACEBOOK users this week commented on another residential subdivision expected to open up in the Rural City of Wangaratta's Waldara growth corridor in early 2020.

**f Julie Braden:** Whoever builds a supermarket opposite Respect Aged Care is going to make a motza.

**f Rodney Miller:** More residential growth. No infrastructure growth.

**f Debbie Smith:** And yet again the cousin hasn't thought of any infrastructure, great to expect all

these people to buy land/ homes but not sight of and infrastructure. Great one Wang council

**f Benjamin Muncey:** Golf course not going so well.... Is this why it's selling land???

**f Charles Szeligiewicz:** Thought the strategic growth corridor was towards the West? Isn't that what the Crusie Street bridge was all about?

**f Adam Anderson:** Waldara WAS unique because it had a golf course there with some nice houses. Now the course is gone together with off the shelf boring

houses, that area is worth less and is now just another bland estate.

FACEBOOK users also commented on a building that couldn't be used for more than a decade and costs council about \$15,000 per annum to maintain could be turned into affordable housing.

**f Reginald Kneebone:** Council should have knocked it down years ago instead of wasting \$150000. Sorry council making decision why should I be so logical.

**f Kath Scanlon:** Great idea

be a good idea be able to house more people.

**f Helen Leslie:** Was a great place in its time My father was there and loved it.

**f Julia Hanssen:** There is a house in our street belonging to Department of Human services Housing and it has been vacant for months and there is supposed to be a huge waiting list.

**f Brian Fox:** 15000\$ to help maintain swan street pool.

**f Heather Petersen:** Nothing wrong with these flats i would love one



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to have your say.

Our likes total is

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## Instagram



wangarattaartgallery

Follow

@wangaratta\_council staff stood together today, reflecting on the #16thdayofactivism which raises awareness on the wide spread issue of gender based violence.



Check out some of our best photos at our @wangchronicle Instagram account.

## Wangaratta's top tweets

TWITTER users this week tweeted about the many local achievements of the Rural City of Wangaratta community members and groups.

**W Wangaratta Players @WangPlayersInc**  
@WangPlayersInc members perform well in recently released Georgy nominations <http://georgyawards.org.au/nominations/>.

**W GalenVEX @GalenVEX**  
What an awesome #VEX nationals #Adelaide We had a blast! Community Award winners! How special is that!

**W NWGIC @NWGICwagga**  
Great opportunity to showcase our research to growers and winemakers in Wangaratta last week. #CharlesSturtResearch #WineScience #Viticulture



If you have something to say, add our handle @wangchronicle to your tweet and we will publish some each week.

## Tweet



**Marie Sellstrom**  
@SellstromMarie

Wangaratta, Albury /Wodonga and Mansfield RAR this evening support refugees on Nauru and PNG #TONZ



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## Wangaratta Chronicle facebook.

NOTE: Comments as they appear online, without corrections.

FACEBOOK users this week commented on the web poll, which asked if they agreed with the State Government's ban on the use of mobile phones by students in public schools from 2020.

**Kelly Brunken:** I understand kids use them in class when they shouldn't, but if my kids need me I want them to be able to contact me directly. The only thing the government should be changing is the bullying not their personal items.

**Val Am-Me:** As long as they

can use them on the way to and from school no issue.

**Jodi Bussell:** We didn't have them at all, why do they need them?

**Nathan Andrew:** Put in their lockers until lunchbreaks etc not while they are in class learning

**Amanda J Chrystal:** The gov has no place to ban mobiles. Are they going to ban them in the work place? Schools are meant for education to prepare kids for adulthood. Gov need to put more effort into banning bullies and implement inclusive education

and access to safe education. Students should be given opportunity to be trusted in turning phones off during class and if they breach that then face a ban implemented by school and notify parents. Its already a general rule in most schools no phones in class. It was that way back when i was at school rockinh my nokia 3210. Kids on their phones in class usually suggests they arent focusing on the work provided. The real issues is finding out why.

**Wil Wallace:** Totally unenforceable, but a good

reason to lambast students and teachers.

**Shantelle Newth:** My understanding was they were already banned from school. When I was in High school we weren't suppose to have them! Not that many people listened

**Coby Hill:** Having a phone is ok the problem is kids using it too much and not socialising and using in class room.

**Kate Ramsay:** Workplaces are for adults. Schools are for children whose brains will benefit from less screen time.



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### Instagram



hockster111

Winter 2019 is taking shape.

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Check out some of our best photos at our @wangchronicle Instagram account.

### Wangaratta's top tweets

TWITTER users this week commented on the activities and achievements of DTAC Wangaratta and the Galen VEX Robotics team.

**GalenVEX @GalenVEX**

Thanks to @BrettWebber we have a coded "Zombie Bot". We can't wait for the kids to build and code their own Zombie bot.

**DTAC\_Wangaratta @DTAC\_Wangaratta**

OH NO Zombie Bots!! What a great idea and looks like fun! I bet the participants at our Coding and Robotics Holiday Program will have fun making these! Big thanks to @GalenVEX, our holiday program relies on your passion and dedication to sharing your skills to the community.

**timmsy @mareetimms**

Three years ago a few of us got together and wondered how we could introduce #STEM to our schools and community, it started with a STEM expo... @DTAC\_Wangaratta grew from that, three years later: we have a range of resources that we lend to schools proud as punch!



If you have something to say, add our handle @wangchronicle to your tweet and we will publish some each week.

### Tweet



Andis Zommers  
@AndisAndiszo

Guna Kinne, second row, fifth from right, was invited by a Good Neighbour Council to join other 'New Australians' in greeting Princess Alexandra of Kent when she visited Wangaratta in 1959. National Museum of Australia



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# Patrolling for illegal activity in our parks

**PARKS** Victoria officers have stepped up patrols and surveillance to protect habitats for native animals, following several cases of illegal tree felling and removal within parks and reserves.

Since July, "Operation Crookwell" has targeted people who are allegedly cutting down trees to supply buyers with firewood.

In the latest seizure on August 8, Parks Victoria officers and Victoria Police intercepted a man in possession of more than two cubic metres of wood, allegedly taken from Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park.

The man's vehicle, three chainsaws and the wood were confiscated and he will be charged with several offences including cutting and taking firewood in a national park, driving off road and destroying wildlife habitat.

At least six other people will be charged with various offences as part of the operation and a total of three motor

vehicles, six chainsaws and seven cubic metres of wood have been seized as evidence with the operation ongoing.

Parks Victoria statewide enforcement operations manager, Chris Mercier, said it is illegal for people to fell trees or collect firewood in a national park.

"We take a zero-tolerance approach to those breaking firewood collection laws and anyone caught will be prosecuted," he said.

"If you observe anyone causing damage to park habitat, removing wood or have information about environmental offences please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

"All information will be treated confidentially."

Firewood can only be collected from designated collection areas in certain areas during permitted seasons.

Details are available at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/parks-forests-and-crown-land/firewood>.



**DIGI-TOYS:** Wangaratta Community Toy Library and Galen College's VEX, including (back left to right) students Patrick Comer and Georja O'Connor, have joined together to put on a show with their robotics display tomorrow, much to the enjoyment of four year old Temperance Baer.

PHOTO: Mel Guy

## Early childhood robotics on display

WANGARATTA Community Toy Library has teamed up with the Galen VEX robotics team to celebrate National Science Week 2019 with their very own hands-on robotics expo for children aged between two and eight years old tomorrow.

Local children and their families have been invited to explore different ways children can interact with the various robotics, learn early programming skills and

develop cognitively through the use of high-tech toys.

The Robot Kids Expo will feature interactive demonstrations of a range of robotics including Bee-bots, Edison robots and Spheros, as well as a demonstration from the Galen VEX team.

The collaboration comes after the toy library was successful in securing a National Science Week grant of \$1997 to host the event and add new equipment

to their catalogue.

Wangaratta Community Toy Library secretary Kathrin Baer said the event and new equipment will help boost early childhood learning.

"With the science week grant we're buying early childhood robotics... children will have the opportunity to play with these eBots," Ms Baer said.

"Our volunteers are always happy to give families a tour and chat about what toys might

help their children develop."

The toy library will aim to keep science alive for local kids even after the expo has concluded and will continue to add robotics to their toy borrowing collection going forward.

Entry to the event will be free with no bookings required.

Robot Kids Expo will be held at the Wangaratta Digital Hub in Docker Street, beside the Wangaratta Library between 10am and 1pm tomorrow.



## WANGARATTA RSL AT THE SYDNEY

**A public service commemorating the 53rd anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan will take place in the 2/24th Battalion Function Room of the Wangaratta RSL at 2pm Sunday 18th of August 2019. Lest We Forget.**



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  - How was it caught?
  - How is the species faring? Is it endangered or being managed sustainably?
  - Is it traceable from the ocean to your plate?
- Aussies love seafood – we eat about 400,000 tonnes every year.

Seventy per cent of this comes from overseas where overfishing and slave labour can be present in the supply chain.

Even some Australian fisheries have issues, such as longlining and bottom trawling, which can damage habitat and kill protected species such as turtles.

To help us find the most sustainable fish to buy, so that we can enjoy it today, tomorrow and always, take a look at the following:

- Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide online – [www.sustainableseafoodguide.org.au](http://www.sustainableseafoodguide.org.au), or get the App. It gives an insight into about 90 seafood species that we commonly find at our fishmongers, supermarkets, fish and chip shops and restaurants.
- For tinned fish – Greenpeace has produced the "Canned Tuna Guide" which lists 10 Australian brands of tuna from best to worst.
- Look for the blue MSC

"Certified Sustainable Seafood" labels (pictured), provided by the Marine Stewardship Council – [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org).

So next time you're buying seafood to cook or at the fish and chip shop or restaurant, ask the above questions, and consider what we're leaving for our children – depleted seas, or healthy sustainable oceans? It's your choice.



INTO BATTLE: Samuel Walsh and Nicole Rainsz from Swordcraft Albury Wodonga (a live action role playing and battle game group) act out a skirmish between their characters at GeekCon at Wangaratta Library on the weekend. PHOTO: Kylie Wilson

## GeekCon was a success

WITH around 500 people through the doors over the course of four hours last Saturday, Wangaratta Library's fourth annual pop culture convention, GeekCon, has been hailed a success.

Wangaratta Library adult programs and services officer, Jasen Smith, said visitors embraced all aspects of the event, and were very

engaged in the various activities.

He said one of the most popular parts of GeekCon for visitors was the Swordcraft Albury Wodonga live action role playing and battle games station located just outside the entrance to the library, where crowds gathered all afternoon to watch members of the group stage mock battles with each other.

Other successful events on the day included a panel on cosplay featuring members of Melbourne's cosplay community, and a cosplay competition which attracted almost 30 entries overall.

Mr Smith wished to thank all those who were involved in making the event a success, including the Wangaratta Youth Coun-

cil and youth services officer, the Galen VEX robotics team, GO-TAFE, NE Tracks LLEN, and all the vendors who had stalls on the day, particularly Booktique.

He said those at the library are looking forward to continuing to build on the event to create an even bigger and better GeekCon next year.

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Wangaratta	1.8mm	5.0mm
Lake Buffalo	NA	20.0mm
Cheshunt	10.2mm	23.0mm

\*NB: Rainfall totals up until 3pm, Thursday

## NEWS TIPS

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Published by Hartley Higgins for North East Media Pty Ltd,  
37 Rowan Street, Wangaratta 3677.  
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# Putting STEM at the forefront for teens



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
[skerwin@nemedia.com.au](mailto:skerwin@nemedia.com.au)

STUDENT involvement stepped up a notch at this week's third annual Galen College STEM Expo.

Conducted as part of National Science Week, the expo offers local schools and the community the chance to see STEM developments that are in motion within the region, and also to explore education pathways in these learning areas.

Galen science teacher Maree Timms, one of those instrumental in developing the expo concept, said it was pleasing to see the progression of student involvement in the event.

"When we first started the STEM Expo in 2016, it was done by the staff - myself, Bernadette Albertson - and the DTAC (Digital Technologies Advisory Committee) team," Ms Timms said.

"Now, in 2018, we have had so many students involved, including as MCs at the event, and one of our year nine students, Ryan Falconer, had one of the most popular exhibits with the racing car simulator he made at home."

"We also had Wangaratta High School doing an exhibit about their video gaming class, and Cathedral College with their spaghetti machine."

"The VEX Robotics kids have been absolute leaders for the event."

Ms Timms estimated 200 to 300 people had attended Wednesday's event at the Galen stadium, which attracted students from Galen, Wangaratta High School, Cathedral College and Borinya Community Partnership, as well as local primary schools, and was open to the community later in the day.

Galen College student Damien French said he had enjoyed the chance to act as MC.

"There was a lot more to it behind the scenes than I thought," Damien said.

"Gaining skills like public speaking is a big thing, and the chance to interact with lots of different people."



PUTTING A DIFFERENT SPIN ON STEM: Galen College student Rutvik Chaudhary, 17, was only too happy to jump in the driver's seat of this exhibit at Wednesday's STEM Expo. PHOTO: Mel Guy



INNOVATION: Galen College's Mitchell Hobbs tests out fellow year nine student Ryan Falconer's homemade racing car simulator at the STEM Expo.

Fellow student MC Mitch Hobbs said the expo offered many young people the "opportunity to see what might be the best pathway for the career they are interested in".

"It also gives them an idea of how fun it can be, and what science can do," he said.

Ryan said he enjoyed the chance to exhibit his racing car simulator.

"I enjoy making stuff, and it makes you feel pretty good to get lots of interest in your work," he said.

"My materials and technology teacher saw it and was pretty impressed - he said he might even try to make one himself."

The expo was a fantastic lead-in to the upcoming Digital Innovation Festival, to be held at GOTAFE on August 29, and also offered some information about a volunteer opportunity with the Formula SAE competition to be held at Winton Motor Raceway in early December, with the RMIT entry on display on Wednesday.

Ms Timms said anyone interested in assisting with the Winton event could contact her via email, [Maree.Timms@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:Maree.Timms@galen.vic.edu.au).

She said the DTAC team would meet in coming months to discuss the future form of the STEM Expo.

"Initially, the expo was designed to highlight STEM and get inspiration happening, and we now have 30 STEM-related events, so we will look at where it will go in future," she said.

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# Local robotics champs all ready to rock worlds



BY ANITA  
McPHERSON  
amcpherson@  
nmedia.com.au

A YOUNG local team of robotics enthusiasts are looking forward to taking on the world at the 2019 VEX Robotics World Championships being held in the USA next week.

This time it will be the Galen Catholic College junior VEX IQ team, accompanied by three mentors, who will be competing against the brightest sparks from around the globe in the world's largest robotics competition, which hosts around 17,000 people over its two week run.

Galen eLearning coordinator Maree Timms said the team consists of three girls and one boy, including year eight students Chiara Lestino and James Parker, and year nine students Jorja O'Connor and Paris McLaurin.

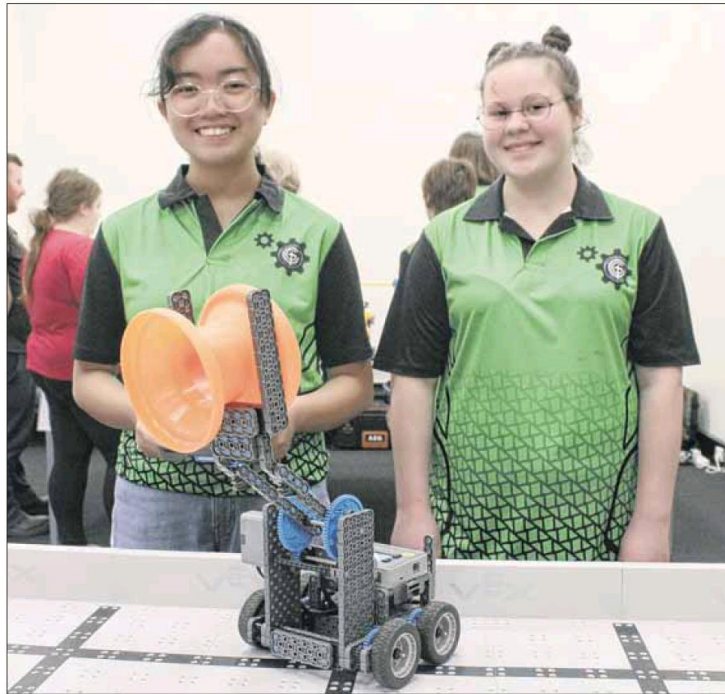
She said they are the number one team in Australia, currently hold the Australian record high points score, and ranked 392 in the world out of 4000 teams.

"The students are all looking forward to meeting teams from all over the world and they'll be competing against 56 different countries," she said.

"The group will be there for two weeks, flying out on Easter Monday and coming home via a quick stop at Washington DC to see the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

"Being the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, they are looking forward to seeing the exhibits there."

After their success at the world championships in 2018, last year's team members were distributed across various new teams and the senior members of



SCIENCE IN ACTION: Galen Catholic College students and VEX team members (from left) Chiara Lestino and Jorja O'Connor, demonstrated their robotics skills during Geek Con at the Wangaratta Library.

the Galen VEX program became mentors.

Ms Timms said the mentors have been sharing their knowledge and skills with the junior teams throughout the year.

"This mentorship has been wonderful and through this, Galen almost had three teams qualify for the VEX Worlds," she said.

"One team came second in the competition finals, and the other came fifth in the skills challenge,

(with the fourth team qualifying for the worlds)."

The mentors have also been volunteering at VEX events both regionally and nationally, impressing VEX officials so much they were invited to volunteer at the world championships.

So while the young team will be doing their best on the field and in the competition, the seniors will also be gaining invaluable experiences playing key volunteering

roles at the championships.

All year 12 students, Madalynn Baumanis will be a judge, while Rutvik Chaudhary and Tristan Roleff will be interchanging roles as referees and tournament manager software operators (helping broadcast scores and results on the big screens).

The 2019 VEX Robotics World Championships will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from April 24 to 30.

Wangaratta Chronicle  
will not publish next  
Monday, due to the  
Easter holidays.

The next edition is out on  
Wednesday, April 24



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# Inspiring job creators

Local success stories help to show others what is possible

EIGHT case studies profiling local businesses, entrepreneurs and educators involved in successful digital innovation have been launched as inspiration for others in the region and further afield.

Highlighted by the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership, the videos and written case studies tell stories emerging from established facilities such as Northeast Health Wangaratta and Galen Catholic College, as well as entrepreneurs developing apps, co-working spaces, and home recording studios which service the region and beyond.

Susan Benedyka, Ovens Murray Regional Partnership digital portfolio lead, said the stories were inspiring, and demonstrated both what was possible and what had already been achieved.

"Many of the people whose stories we feature have used technology to develop new solutions to modern problems, like the transport logistics app (from Matt Joyce's Wangaratta-based WCL Management Services) and the ECG heart monitoring software (at Northeast Health Wangaratta)," she said.

"Others are connecting local communities and businesses with the world.

"We're also excited about the examples of learning opportunities for young people (Galen's VEX robotics program), and the community collaborations that are delivering benefits beyond their initial intent."

Ms Benedyka said the Ovens Murray Partnership had identified the importance of being "job creators, not job takers", and to innovate rather than play catch-up in the



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

digital arena, so locals could help shape the future of the region.

She said an initial search for success stories had unearthed more than expected, but this had still just scratched the surface of those working in the sphere, and of the possibilities available in coming years.

"Some of these people have partners who have moved to the region for work, and they have chosen to live here, and developed their own businesses through digital innovation," Ms Benedyka said.

The Northeast Health Wangaratta case study focuses on the development of ECG heart monitoring software, a pilot which was assisted by \$250,000 in fundraising through the Bright Opportunity Shop.

This funding was matched by the State Government, and along with other donations, the project is now worth \$530,000.

"People in these communities know the need, and they know the solutions," Ms Benedyka said.

The project enables high quality images to be shared with doctors immediately using remote devices, without the patient needing to travel to Wangaratta.

"Ambulance Victoria also has access to the system, which is being developed for use across the state," Hume telehealth manager for NHW Jane Kealey said.

Ms Benedyka said in re-



CELEBRATING INNOVATION: Susan Benedyka, Ovens Murray Regional Partnership digital portfolio lead, Jorge Silveira, chief information officer at Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW), and Jane Kealey, Hume telehealth manager at NHW, at Thursday's digital innovation video launch.

PHOTO: Mel Guy

mote communities, this meant ambulances did not need to be on the road and unavailable for other patients, as they could receive initial consultation from their own doctor's office.

The Ovens Murray Regional Partnership is currently in the throes of developing its digital plan, a key need identified through last year's community forum, and stories like those told in the case studies will be food for thought.

"Digital innovation is one of our high priorities, and we have said to the government

that we believe it is something we can succeed at," Ms Benedyka said.

Ovens Murray Regional Partnership chair Irene Grant said the case studies unearthed incredible national and international success stories happening locally, many of which were not widely known.

Galen College teachers Maree Timms and Bernadette Albertson said the project was an effective way to deliver the message of opportunities available in the North East.

"Wangaratta has known

what is going on with VEX for quite a while, but this gets it out to the wider region and beyond and will highlight it a bit more," Ms Albertson said.

Ms Timms said it was important for the Galen group, as educators, to be in touch with other digital innovators.

The video and case study series is available on the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership website at [www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/ovens-murray/](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/ovens-murray/) projects, and is also being rolled out through its Facebook page.

## Arts Connect Whitfield: Creating and Community

OPPORTUNITIES are available to experience a galvanising day of professional artistic development in Whitfield this Saturday.

Arts Connect Whitfield: Creating and Community is a free one day intensive that aims to foster skills and collaboration between regional artists, strengthen local creative leadership and build stronger networks.

It features a curated program of presentations, panels and case studies, and the chance to meet and share ideas with other creative people in the local area.

"It is not often that we're able to hear from creative people of this calibre in the one spot and in our own backyard," Wangaratta council's manager arts, culture and events Penny Hargrave said.

"Regional Arts Victoria and the Rural City of Wangaratta have been fortunate enough to secure these leaders in their areas of expertise to share their knowledge, passion and wisdom.

"The last Arts Connect event, held in Wangaratta in February, was a sell out and we received wonderful feedback on the value of these sorts of workshops.

"At the end of these sessions you are able to walk away with really practical ideas to implement into your arts practice and into your business. We are looking forward to meeting many more of our local artists, arts managers and creatives who are thinking about taking their hobby or passion to the next level."

The session will be held from 10.30am - 5pm on Saturday at the King Valley Community Complex, Lot 2 Mansfield-Whitfield Road and is open to everyone, but bookings are essential and places are limited.

Bookings can be made at [www.trybooking.com/baogc](http://www.trybooking.com/baogc).

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# Supporting resilient people and flourishing communities

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Charles Sturt University works hard to play an important role in regional Australia.

They endeavour to bring this to life through their relationships with industry, TAFE, government and community that are foundations for initiatives supporting resilient people, flourishing communities and sustainable environments.

WRSC is a partnership between Charles Sturt University and Goulburn Ovens TAFE.

The aim of the WRSC is to help the community prosper, working collaboratively to provide a regional education hub

that builds aspirations, creates pathways and supports successful participation in study and exams.

With their state-of-the-art facilities, which students and their communities can use to access knowledge and learning, they can help you succeed by supporting your study in a changing environment and responding to existing and future workforce needs and skills shortages.

**Highlights of their recent work are:**

- Offering a pathway for Vet Nurses: for more information see [bit.ly/CSUVetTech](http://bit.ly/CSUVetTech);
- Support for STEM education in schools: for more information see [bit.ly/2018STEMInspirations](http://bit.ly/2018STEMInspirations);
- Support for school students to reach for the stars: for more information see [bit.ly/WangarattaMars](http://bit.ly/WangarattaMars);

• Pathway courses studying Healthy Ageing: for more information see [bit.ly/LIHA2018](http://bit.ly/LIHA2018); and

• Establishing the Digital Technology Advisory Committee: for more information see [dtac.zone](http://dtac.zone).

To find out more, you are invited to come and visit the WRSC at 218 Tone Rd, Wangaratta, to see how they can help you succeed in your studies and build your community with state-of-the-art learning and teaching facilities, seminar and meeting rooms, video-conferencing, science and computer labs and quiet study spaces.

**SHARING INSIGHTS:** Chris Sainsbury, Department of Employment, was a recent Regional Forum Keynote Speaker at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre.



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## Ride2Work Day a success

A RIDE and breakfast hosted by Gateway Health marked Ride2Work Day last week.

Riders representing a range of organisations, including Road Safe North East, Gateway Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Rural City of Wangaratta, The Centre and YMCA, took part, along with a number of keen community members.

The 15 participants began their journey at Apex Park, riding along the river path to Gateway Health, where they enjoyed breakfast and a cuppa.

Prizes were announced for the most unique bike, mammoth ride, keen community member and 'hot lap' participant.

The event drew regular riders, as well as people who said they had never ridden to work before, or didn't regularly ride, but were more likely to do so after the event, and as weather conditions improve.

Organisers said the event played an important role in connecting workplaces through employee health, and offering staff the opportunity to build physical activity into their working day, in a social way.

The Victorian Healthy Workplaces Achievement program provides a framework for coordinating workplace health initiatives, and Gateway Health is available to offer support for local implementation of this program.

For further information on the Victorian Healthy Workplaces Achievement program, contact health promotion coordinator Gateway Health Felicity Kennedy at felicity.kennedy@gatewayhealth.org.au, or phone 5723 2067.



**BATTLE LOOMS:** Patrick Dissegna and Harrison Ahrens put their VEX robotics skills to the test, as students from across the region will be doing on Saturday during the North East and Southern Riverina VEX Robotics Championships at Galen Catholic College Stadium.

# VEX stars flock to Galen stadium

ABOUT 80 young people will flock to Galen Catholic College's stadium this Saturday to take part in the North East and Southern Riverina VEX Robotics Championships.

Running from 10am to 3pm at the stadium, the event offers teams from across the region the chance to battle it out for a place at the upcoming VEX Nationals, to be held in Adelaide in December.

Students aged from grade five to year 11, hailing from Wangaratta as well as Albury and Wodonga, will take part.

The VEX Robotics competition tasks teams of students with designing and building robots to play against other teams in a



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

game-based engineering challenge.

Classroom STEM concepts are put to the test, as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership and communication.

Tournaments are held year-round at the regional, state and national levels, and these culminate at the VEX Robotics World Championships each April.

The North East region boasts a rich VEX robotics vein, with three local teams having recently represented Australia at the 2019 VEX

World Championships in the USA.

Local prospects again look positive, with Albury team Arc Bots having broken the Australian record for the competition high score, and one of Wangaratta's Galen teams, a new year seven combination competing for the first time, now holding the record for its autonomous and driver skills.

Members of the public are welcome to come along and watch Saturday's event, and cheer for the Galen, Boriya Community Partnership, and Wangaratta Primary School teams.

Entry is free to the championships, which will be overseen by guest judge Kelly Clarkson, a Ford Australia engineer.

## A LOOK BACK IN THE WANGARATTA CHRONICLE ARCHIVES



## Police looking to reward our safe cyclists

By ZOE RUDDER  
Wednesday, October 21, 2009

WANGARATTA police are on the look out for kids on bikes, but it's the ones doing the right thing they are hoping to catch in the act.

Leading Senior Constable Halena Chandler of Wangaratta police said officers across Victoria have been out promoting the importance of bicycle safety as part of Safe Cycle month.

**BIKE RIDE:** Constable Travis Carroll and Leading Senior Constable Halena Chandler are encouraging people to stay safe on their bikes.



"Every October we try to get out there and get across the message about the importance of staying safe on your bike," Led Sen Const Chandler said.

"We will actually be stopping kids we see who are doing the right thing and giving them a sticker and taking their

names so they can go into a draw to win prizes."

But Safe Cycle month is not just aimed at kids.

"It is important everyone knows how to stay safe on the roads and that includes adults," Led Sen Const Chandler said.

"We will be talking to the public about bike safety, things like helmets, lights at night and the road rules."

She said Wangaratta has a vibrant and growing cycling culture.

"We have the ideal terrain for cycling," she said.

"We want to encourage people to get on their bikes but we just want to make sure they are doing it safely."



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## McCurdy supports Tarra' speed cut

NATIONALS MP Tim McCurdy (MLA, Ovens Valley) attended a community meeting at Tarravongee on Monday to support residents seeking to have the speed limit reduced from 80km/h to 60km/h through the township.

Mr McCurdy said attempts to have the speed limit changed had been ongoing in the Tarravongee community for many, many years.

"I joined locals some six years ago to lobby VicRoads to reduce the speed but it was unsuccessful then," he said.

"Since that time the Tarravongee community has grown with more housing development and more children living in the town who are riding bicycles and crossing roads.

"The need to reduce the speed limit is even greater now than before."

At this week's meeting Mr McCurdy raised with Regional Roads Victoria representatives that 60km/h limits were in place at Everton, Moyhu and Milawa and that Tarravongee should be the same.

He said the situation at the Beechworth intersection in Tarravongee where the westerly sun is in drivers' eyes was another compelling reason to reduce the speed limit.

"Regional Roads Victoria has said it could be up to three months before the community gets an answer to its latest request – they can take all the time they like, as long as they reply with the right answer, that they will reduce the speed limit," Mr McCurdy said.



PLAN: Charles Maiden and Sam Tiffin (both 11) got to grips with programming.



PLAY: Aimee McLaurin (eight) and Emily Hogan (12) were getting some traction.



PROGRAM: Jack Dumsday (10) got to work.



TOGETHER: Getting creative were Jack Dubourg (12) and Heath French (13).

## Kids immersed in super science days

LOCAL students were given a hands-on introduction to robotics and coding during a two-day holiday workshop held at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre this week.

Designed especially for kids in grades five and six, the sessions included five different activities where they learnt to design, build,

code and drive robots and to create apps and games.

The popular workshop was once again fully booked, with 25 participants taking part representing seven different schools.

And they had members of Australia's number one VEX robotics team in the driver's seat, as students from Galen Catholic College, working

with a grade six student from Glenrowan Primary School, led and mentored participants.

The program is presented by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee, a local collaboration encouraging participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (or STEM) inspired activities.

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# Hub abuzz with girl power sharing interest in STEM

By SIMONE KERWIN

GIRL power was on full show at the Wangaratta Digital Hub last week.

The hub hosted a workshop aimed at redefining the face of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) by encouraging more girls to consider pursuing the fields through study and employment.

A group of 25 girls aged between grade five and year 10 level took part in the event, and the hub was abuzz with engaged young minds drawing inspiration from their mentors for the session.

Ford Australia engineers Jessica Selway, Linda Parkman and former Wangaratta High School student Kelly Clarkson were among the mentors, along with:

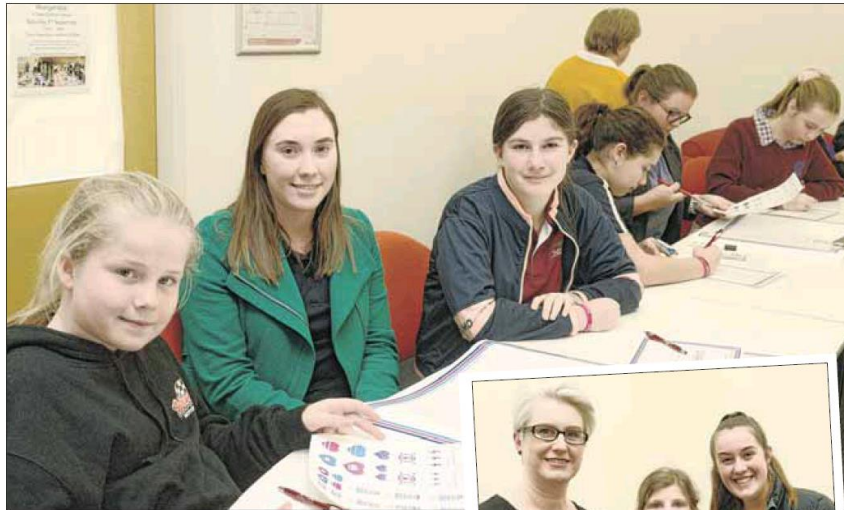
- Clare Kiely and Eloise Seymour from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;

- Rural City of Wangaratta economic development officer Rachael Richards and her former Galen Catholic College student and now local civil engineer Kristy Tossol;
- local resident Mel Aggenbach who is involved in the IT tech industry;

- Bronwyn Chapman from Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance;
- local entrepreneur Tammy Atkins; and
- Sally Matheson from Benalla's Tomorrow Today Education Foundation.

Maddy Baumanis, a year 12 Galen student who hosted the evening, said the workshop aimed to help local girls understand the Girl Powered concept.

"It's about encouraging young women to get involved in



**GUIDING FORCE:** Students Charmaine Streader (left) and Adel Webber (right) work with their mentor, civil engineer Kristy Tossol, at the Girl Powered event at the Wangaratta Digital Hub.

**GIRL POWERED SUPPORT:** Rachael Richards (right), Rural City of Wangaratta economic development officer, with workshop participants Dami Kernney and Sarah Simonetti at Girl Powered.

PHOTOS: Mel Guy

STEM fields and occupations, and to embrace usually male-dominated fields," she said.

"We grouped the girls with mentors, to help show them that STEM opens up a lot of opportunities, and offer them role models they can look up to.

"We found a lot of them brought up the point that they may be different and might not fit into the status quo, but there was a lot of very positive talk from the mentors about the fact that while they may be different to others," they

should pursue their interests."

Maddy, who plans to study medicine, said she had noticed a change in the level of interest in STEM subjects just in the time she had been at secondary school.

"When I first started at Galen, there were no girls in physics, and now there are three; we'd like that to be even higher, but it just shows that it is changing," she said.

Students from Galen, Wangaratta High School, Wangaratta Primary School, Benalla

and Chilern took part in the event, among them year seven Galen student Grace Jenkins.

"My mentor was Mel Aggenbach, and she was really interesting to listen to," Grace said.

"She worked in customer service for a lot of apps, and said she'd chosen a field to work in where there were lots of new opportunities, and lots of possibilities if you chose to take them.

"She said you don't have to take them all, but it's good to

at least have a look before you immediately say no to them."

Grace said at this stage she would love to pursue either teaching, or something biology-based.

Marce Timms, an organiser of the Girl Powered workshop, said the atmosphere at the event was fabulous.

"The way the mentors connected with the kids, the buzz was really great, and we will definitely look to hold another event next year based on the success of this one."

## Respected 'birdo' to speak at Whorouly tomorrow

A FREE local birding event is being held at Whorouly tomorrow to encourage landholders and households to support greater bird biodiversity in their backyards.

Respected ecologist Professor David Watson will give a morning talk on between 10am and noon at John and Barb Griffiths' property.

The planned event will cover our local birds, what species are present and identifying them, and how to attract birds to your garden by planting a range of suitable plants.

The session will be an overview of simple approaches gardeners can undertake.

"Our event is coinciding with the Aussie Backyard Bird Count being held this week," Whorouly Landcare president Brian Harrington said.

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is a nationwide citizen science event to record local birds and provides a snapshot of our local birds at a national level.

"We are encouraging everyone to come along and learn about our local birds and listen to a great presenter," Brian said.

"The morning session is being held at a local member's property which has a magnificent native garden and an extensive list of visiting birds."

Contact Michaela on 0417 675 191 to register your attendance and for event address details.

There will also be Landcare signs out on the Snow Road to assist attendees to find the hosts' property.

Attendees are requested to bring their own chair and a hat; a light morning tea will be supplied.

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- Choose between a walk in Dartmoor National Park or a scenic cruise in Plymouth harbour

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# MONDAY'S People

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newborns | 3 just for kids | 4

4 PAGE LIFT-OUT

NOVEMBER 25, 2019



## Jorja's joy in cyberspace

By LEAH ANDERSON BYRNE

JORJA O'Connor loves all things cyberspace.

The 15 year old Galen Catholic College student recently attended the Australian Army Cadets cyber security camp in September, despite being four months under the listed age.

"I joined the Australian Army Cadets Wangaratta at the start of last year because I had an interest in joining the defence force and learning new skills," she said.

"I'm now a Lance Corporal within cadets

so I did a junior leadership course during the mid-year holidays and am now strengthening my leadership and communication skills as well as making lot of friends.

"Since doing the course I've realised I can stand up and teach people how to do things as well as step back and make sure everyone's ok; I'm still in the learning phase for leadership but I am learning about myself and my type of leadership."

Jorja began as a recruit at the beginning of last year before passing the test to become a cadet and then opting to do the leadership course to become a Lance Corporal.

When she got an email about the cyber camp she was immediately interested, as she had done a cyber security workshop with Charles Sturt University prior to the camp.

"Despite my age, I was accepted into the course because of my experience with the VEX Robotics and Girls in Cyber Security Advancing Course," she said.

"Around 40 cadets of all ranks and experiences around Australia went to the five day camp, where we went through security modules and going to lectures or visiting the Department of Health and Human Services or the war memorial in Canberra.

"At the end of the camp there was a large competition and my team came second by one point.

"It's definitely a possibility for me to have a career in cyber security; whether that's within the defence force or as an ethical hacker.

"I think my plan is to get a degree with the Australian Defence Force Academy and then joining the defence force but for now I have three more years in cadets and will just continue to move up the ranks.

"I'll also continue my roles with the Galen VEX Robotics team, student leadership and Wangaratta Youth Council."

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# VEX team set for take-off

Galen students have sights on USA world event after reaching \$30,000

AFTER months of dedicated fundraising, the Galen Catholic College VEX robotics team is ready for take-off, having raised their target of \$30,000 towards an epic trip to the USA to compete in the World VEX Robotics championships.

The students having taken their show on the road in recent weeks visiting schools and running demonstrations for a number community groups and centres, building a groundswell of local support for their crack at the world titles.

Last week the team's youngest members, Mitchell Currie-Fraser and Erin Chadban, visited the Springhurst Primary School where they offered their expertise to both students and teachers to help get the school's "thymio"



BY ANITA  
McPHERSON  
amcpherson@  
nemedi.com.au

robots started, receiving a box of chocolates and another gratefully received contribution toward their travel fund.

The group of six students and their support personnel which includes two teachers and two parents will take flight in a few weeks, to be one of the 1400 teams competing in the championships in Louisville, Kentucky from April 25 to 28.

Team leader Lachlan Carboon said despite being on school holidays the students were already back at school putting the finishing touches to their entry.

He said they were thrilled

by the support they've received from the community and while they're being realistic about their chances, their unexpected win at the Australian Nationals goes to show anything could happen.

"We have fully built the robot so now we're just practising driving it and making some small modifications to make it perfect," he said.

"We don't think we're going to win but we know we're going to have a whole lot of fun."

UP AND AWAY: VEX robotics team members including (back, from left) Erin Chadban, Jye Spinks, Mitchell Currie-Fraser with (front, from left) Madalynn Baumanis, Rutvik Chaudhary and Lachlan Carboon will be off to the USA at the end of April.



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**STORYTELLER:**  
Author Fiona Lowe, with Jude Rosenow from Edgars Books and News, following her recent visit to the Wangaratta Library. Fiona told of her journey from midwife to writer, and why she chose the North East for the setting of her latest book, Birthright, which asks the question, 'Is an inheritance a privilege or a right?'.

## Program focus on bladder health

THE "Below the Belt" Bladder Health Program at Gateway Health Wangaratta will now be held on Monday, April 16 and Monday, April 23 from 1pm to 3.30pm.

The sessions provide local men with the opportunity to learn how to better manage their own incontinence and learn about prostate health.

It provides the opportunity to explore a variety of treatment options to suit individual needs and to develop a plan that will improve their lifestyle.

The Below the Belt Bladder Health Program has been

designed for men with early signs of urinary incontinence but is also of benefit to those with chronic issues.

The program emphasises that incontinence is not a normal part of the ageing process and is treatable.

Topics covered include incontinence and its impact on lifestyle, ideal fibre and fluid intake, pelvic floor exercise instruction, and referral services.

Guest speakers include Janet Bartolic, clinical nurse consultant, and Chadia Bastin, dietician.

Community members

can self refer, however, it is preferred that referrals are completed by a health professional who identifies that the client can benefit from involvement in the Bladder Health Program.

"Below the Belt" Bladder Health Program will be held at Gateway Health, 45-47 Mackay Street, Wangaratta on Monday, April 16 and Monday, April 23 from 1pm to 3.30pm.

Cost is \$30 including pelvic floor scan following the program.

For more information phone (03) 5723 2082.

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# Seniors Festival full of fun

THERE are all kinds of activities and events to "get into" as the Rural City of Wangaratta's Victorian Seniors Festival program continues this week.

Mayor Dean Rees said there is a huge calendar of events on offer, and with headline acts such as a luncheon with Rodney Vincent and the country concert with Colleen Hewett sold out, it's wise to book tickets early for activities that are available.

"New this year is a golden oldie, 'Singin' in the Rain', showing at the Wangaratta Cinema Centre and the Positive Ageing Expo run by the Rural City of Wangaratta is back by

popular demand," Cr Rees said.

"Activities are happening across the municipality and beyond including a lunch at Moyhu with live music and a special bus tour of Beechworth and Yackandandah.

"It's your turn to dance, play sport, exercise, watch a movie with your friends, eat, laugh, learn and enjoy two weeks of fun provided by the Rural City of Wangaratta in conjunction with many of our community organisations."

Today enjoy a free movie, popcorn, tea and coffee, when the comedy Song for Marion starring Vanessa Red-

grave and Terence Stamp is screened at the Wangaratta Library at 2.30pm.

There will also be the opportunity to learn how to use your mobile phone properly during an informative session at Pangerang Community House in Ovens Street on Monday from 10am until 12pm, with gold coin donation appreciated.

There will be plenty to do tomorrow when the Wangaratta Library hosts an introduction to cryptic crosswords with Gillian from 10.30am until 11.30am, try woodworking as a hobby at the Wangaratta Woodworkers in Evans Street

from 9am until 12pm or learn how to research your family history with volunteers at the Family History Research Library in Murphy Street, above the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre, from 10.30am until 2.30pm, and all are free.

There is also a "come and try" Lifeball session on Tuesday at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre from 1pm until 2pm (\$5), Tai Chi for health from 4pm until 5pm at the Apex Park pavilion (\$10), and a bus trip to Beechworth and Yackandandah (\$5) which will leave from Pangerang Community House

at 10am, returning at 4pm (bring a cut lunch) with bookings by calling 5721 3813.

While Colleen Hewett's country concert is now booked out, Friends of the Hospital are also holding a fundraising lamington drive and plum pudding project at the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

The Well Ageing Hub will also be there at the same time to provide important assistance on the supports available to older people living in the region.

Finally there is a hot topics discussion on social, cultural

and political issues at the Wangaratta University of the Third Age (U3A) from 1.15pm until 3.15pm in their meeting room at the Wangaratta Turf Club.

There is also eight days of free public transport on trains, coaches and buses running until October 13 for Victorian Seniors Card holders.

Program guides are available from [www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au](http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au) and locations including the Wangaratta Library, Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre, Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre and the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre.

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LOCAL NEWS AND MEDIA

## WEATHER



### TEMPERATURES:

Monday	Max 20	Min 8	Cloudy
Tuesday	Max 15	Min 5	Possible showers
Wednesday	Max 19	Min 2	Mostly sunny
Thursday	Max 20	Min 3	Mostly sunny

### RAINFALL:

	Last 72 hours	Last 7 days
Wangaratta	0.8	0.8 mm
Lake Buffalo	3.2	3.2mm
Cheshunt	1.8	1.8mm

\*NB: Rainfall totals up until 3pm, Sunday

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Published by Hartley Higgins for North East Media Pty Ltd, 37 Rowan Street, Wangaratta 3677.  
Responsibility for election comment is accepted by Editor Jeff Zeuschner.

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GET IT DONE EARLY: CFA District 23 duty officer Trevor Ebbels (right) has encouraged rural property owners to finish their land cleaning efforts this month before it becomes "too late", as CFA members and incident controller Geoff Rowe (left) prepare for the upcoming fire season.

## CFA urges to prepare properties for fire season, harvesting plea

By MITCHELL GASTIN

WITH the fire season approaching, Country Fire Authority (CFA) District 23 duty officer Trevor Ebbels has urged rural residents to get their clean ups and burn offs done "before it's too late".

Farmers and rural property owners across the region have been encouraged to clear their properties of flammable materials before the end of October.

Mr Ebbels reminded local residents to ensure their properties and families are prepared before the fire season.

"If you're going to do any cleaning up before summer then start now, I think by end of the month it will be too late," he said.

CFA has also released an official warning to farmers preparing to harvest and may be inclined to use machinery in the next few months.

The warning comes after statis-

tics reveal CFA responds to more than 200 harvesting related fires every year.

"On really bad days with extremely hot and windy conditions we advise people to postpone work they were planning on doing in the paddock," Mr Ebbels said.

"Unfortunately sometimes a fire occurs no matter what... keep machines well maintained and keep firefighting equipment in the paddocks with them."

District 23 also warned people to act with elevated caution when using welders, grinders and mowers as the weather begins to warm up.

"Once the fire restrictions are in place, they need to be very mindful of the environment they're in," Mr Ebbels said.

"Clear three metres around the area, including all flammable materials such as grasses and leaves, and particularly with grinders, put shielding around it

to stop sparks coming off it.

"Wet down the areas well, but ensure it's devoid of flammable material."

CFA encourages farmers to regularly clean and inspect machines, check Fire Danger Ratings before harvesting and avoid driving vehicles and motorbikes through dry grass or crop.

"It's about having some situational awareness, you've got to do repairs from time to time, but be aware what you're doing can be quite hazardous," Mr Ebbels said.

"Regulation is put there for very good reason but it's about protecting themselves and the broader community."

For more information on safely operating farming machinery, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/operating-farming-machinery-equipment-and-vehicles](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/operating-farming-machinery-equipment-and-vehicles).

• CFA urge caution, vigilance to prevent haystack fires - page 17

## Come and try fitness

OLDER adults are invited to come and try a range of group fitness classes specially designed for them at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre during the Seniors Festival.

Try aqua aerobics and land-based classes such as Pryme Movers, Tone and Yoga between October 6 and October 29, with no bookings required and all classes listed in the Active Adults range available free of charge to over 50s.

To find out more visit [www.wangaratta.ymca.org.au](http://www.wangaratta.ymca.org.au) or call in for more information.

## Girl power on show at STEM workshop

TWENTY-five places in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) workshop designed for girls are steadily filling ahead of the event on Wednesday, October 16.

Held in celebration of International Day of the Girl Child, 'GirlPowered: Redefining the Face of STEM' will be held at the Wangaratta Digital Hub in Docker Street (entrance to the left of the Wangaratta Library entrance) from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

It will be presented by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee and the digital hub, with support from GOTAFE, Charles Sturt University, NE Tracks, Galen Catholic College, and Education Advantage.

The session is open to all girls aged between grade five and year 11 who have an interest in STEM.

It will kick off with an interactive question and answer session with local industry STEM leaders, then flow into a series of fun, hands-on activities, including VEX robotics.

Bookings are essential for those interested in taking part in the event, and can be made by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/GirlPowerWang>; for more information about the initiative, visit [GirlPowered.com](http://GirlPowered.com)



# Robotics appetite grows

By SIMONE KERWIN

GROWING interest in robotics and coding among local youngsters was in evidence at a strongly attended Come and Try VEX event at the Wangaratta Digital Hub.

Held as part of the Digital Innovation Festival, the recent session drew participants from a range of age groups keen to further their knowledge, or to enjoy their first taste of robotics.

And the level of interest may spark more events tailored to this interest area, according to digital hub coordinator Amanda Aldous.

"We had quite a few young people come along to the event - they just love it," she said.

"There is obviously a big interest in this area, and sessions like this give kids access outside school.

"There is a sense that parents are really switched on to developing these types of skills, because their children really enjoy learning them.

"The key thing to note is that it's being seen as a recreation-based activity; kids are not just doing this because they are doing it at school - they enjoy it, and it's attracting a wide interest group."

Ms Aldous said the digital hub would work at developing a coding group for young people, and she would love to hear from parents interested



TEAMWORK: Jorja O'Connor and Kade Micheli work on putting a robot together. PHOTOS: Mel Guy

in helping to get such a group started.

"The aim is for the digital hub to support and facilitate things, but not run them, so we would love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved in setting up a coding group," she said.

The digital hub, the entrance of which is located to the left of the Wangaratta Library entrance, is also hosting a weekly Wangaratta Robot Combat program presented

by the Wangaratta Robotics Club.

Held each Wednesday over 10 weeks (the program began this month), it is aimed at young people aged 17 and under, who can learn to build a small battle robot and then enter regular club competitions.

Anyone interested in helping to start a coding group, or taking part in the robot combat program, is encouraged to contact Amanda Aldous on 0447 093 888.



TAKING ROBOTS FOR A SPIN: Maggie Mae Beeson and Jack Beeson try their hand at VEX robotics.

## Keep watch around water this spring

RESIDENTS are being urged to always supervise children when they are in and around water after Royal Life Saving Australia (RLSA) reported a 10 per cent increase in drownings across Australia between July 2018 and June 2019 compared to the previous year.

Of the 276 deaths, there were 101 drownings in inland waterways, while 31 deaths occurred in swimming pools, according to the report released by the RLSA.

Around 45 per cent of total deaths occurred over the summer period, which was a 17 per cent increase compared with the 10-year average.

RLSA chief executive officer Justin Scarr said parents and guardians share the responsibility to keep children, family and friends safe around water.

There were an estimated 584 hospitalisations as a result of non-fatal drowning incidents over the past year, while risky behaviour, including alcohol and drugs combined with poor swimming ability, has continued to impact drowning rates.

Rivers accounted for 29 per cent of all drowning deaths, which was more than any other location and 63 per cent of all drowning deaths of children aged zero to four years old occurred in swimming pools.

For swimming safety info visit the RLSA website at <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/>.

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# Education Feature

## TERM THREE 2018

### Galen game changers and change makers

THE 2018 Science Week theme 'Game Changers and Change Makers' is a very suitable one for the local area in North East Victoria, particularly through the work of staff and students at Galen Catholic College.

In just a fortnight from today this theme will once again be on display as Galen's STEM Careers Expo will officially launch for its third consecutive year, exposing teachers, students and parents to possibilities of the future in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

In many ways it's difficult to believe that only a few years ago in 2016, Australian Digital Inclusion Index data showed that this region was significantly lower than other regions across Australia.

North East Victoria had a Digital Inclusion index of 43.8, the third lowest across all of Australia, compared to inner city Melbourne with an index of 62.5.

As teachers play a critical role in influencing the choices of students and



**WINNERS:** Galen's 2018 VEX Robotics Team were awarded the Service Award at the VEX Robotics World Championships, held earlier this year in Louisville Kentucky, USA. Voted as the most friendly, cooperative and helpful team by peers and judges, the team including Mitchell Currie Fraser, Rutvik Chaudhary, Madalynn Baumanis, Lachlan Carboon, Jye Spinks and Erin Chadban - seen here with Dan Laroche from the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, were very proud of their achievement.

their future employment, a dedicated team of educators set about changing this - fast-forward two years, and Galen has experienced great growth in digital innovation and are leading the way at an educational level, through their partnerships with local stakeholders.

An area at Galen that has sought the college regional, national and international acclaim is their involvement in VEX Robotics, whereby the school has experienced tremendous success and growth.

After receiving the Service Award at the VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville Kentucky, USA in April this year, the college has had a flurry of local and national media attention, invitations to deliver workshops and guest talks at many events.

Their award is well-deserved, with the team voted as the most friendly, cooperative and helpful team by peers and judges, out of 600 teams from across the world.

Galen teacher Maree Timms commented "one of the great things about VEX

Robotics and our involvement in STEM is the teamwork that it promotes".

"We can only grow through working together and our partnership with DTAC (Digital Technology Advisory Committee) has truly brought this to fruition," she said.

"It's great to also have the likes of Wangaratta High School and Cathedral College on board too.

"Although we've already achieved so much, it's only the beginning of an exciting ride ahead."

## Galen, my place for STEM

Science • Technology • Engineering • Mathematics

### STEM Careers Expo 2018

Wednesday 15th August

**Come and see local STEM change makers!**

Featuring Galen VEX Team, Wangaratta High, Cathedral College and Borinya students who will be showing off their skills. Exhibitors include Charles Sturt University, Northeast Health and Jewellers Co-working, plus GOTAFE with many new displays made in their Innovation Hub.

**Venue: Galen Stadium • Schools: 12pm - 3pm**

**• Community: 4pm - 6pm All welcome!**

**[www.galenstemexpo18.weebly.com](http://www.galenstemexpo18.weebly.com)**



Digital Harvest

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# Light up this Friday in the name of safety

MOTORISTS are urged to turn their headlights on during the day this Friday to mark National Road Safety Week (April 30 – May 6).

The 'Shine a Light on Road Safety' campaign was launched by the Transport Accident Commission, Road Trauma Support Services Victoria and VicRoads and aims to encourage Victorians to pause and think about the decisions they make while driving.

Victorian drivers and riders are also encouraged to turn on their headlights during the day this Friday and show their commitment to road safety.

TAC road safety lead director Samantha Cockfield said any life lost on the state's roads was too many and there was still a long way to go to reach zero.

"It's important for us to remember the people who have died on our roads and think about what we can do to keep ourselves and others safe on the roads," Ms Cockfield said.

"We all have a role to play to improve road safety on Victoria's roads and to ensure no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads," she said.

John Weinert from Road Safety North East said the use of 'daytime running light' or low-beam was absolutely vital for motorists and riders and immediately reduces the chances of someone driving into your vehicle by 25 per cent.

"Headlights on low-beam should run all day every day,



LIGHT UP: Jackie Hobbs from Road Safety North East urges motorists and riders to turn their headlights on this Friday for National Road Safety Week. PHOTO: Emma Hillier

**“We all have a role to play to improve road safety on Victoria's roads and to ensure no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads.”**

SAMANTHA COCKFIELD,  
TAC ROAD SAFETY LEAD DIRECTOR

cars and motorbikes," Mr Weinert said.

He said distraction, fatigue and speed remained the key preventable causes of road trauma.

"Under no circumstances use your phone when behind the wheel," Mr Weinert said.

"Fatigue, particularly during school holidays and long weekends was a recurring

problem. Get a good sleep before heading off and take a break when driving."

He said the well promoted message of 'wipe off five to stay alive', was as important now as when the campaign began.

"The faster you are going when you hit something or someone the more damage you will do," Mr Weinert said.

"Remember, the speed limits are the maximum speed allowed.

"During winter we have wet, icy roads so just back off. "If you're driving in an area known for kangaroos, back off to 80kmh."

Mr Weinert said motorists and riders should also take care when on our Alpine roads, which attract large

numbers of motorcyclists from Melbourne.

"Motorists should be aware that you can suddenly find a motorbike coming around a corner at you and riders should be aware that there has been a lot of work on the Alpine roads recently so conditions have changed," he said.

"In other words, back off and drive to the conditions."

## KING VALLEY NEWS

### Garden group

GREEN Thumbs Garden Group will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 10 from 10am at the home of Barry and Robyn Batten.

Those looking to attend are advised to bring their own cup/mug for morning tea.

The Batten residence is at 74 Milawa-Bobinawarrah Road at Milawa, and those coming from Oxley are advised to turn left at the Milawa Crossroads.

Anyone seeking more information can contact Lyn Lewis on (03) 5729 8383.

### Craft group

KING Valley Craft Group are meeting today from 11.30am onwards at the Cheshunt Hall, with upcoming group meetings scheduled for the same time on the third and fifth Wednesdays in May.

All are welcome to come and bring some of their craft to work on, or just have a coffee and a chat.

Anyone seeking more information can contact Lyn Lewis on (03) 5729 8383.

### Sponsors day at golf club

WHITFIELD and District Golf Club are holding a Sponsors Day at the club this Sunday, May 6.

The day starts at 10am for 10.30am and will be an ambrosia event for teams of four.

The event is a thank you to the club's valued sponsors, although non sponsors are also more than welcome to attend at a cost of \$10 per person.

There will be prizes and a spinning wheel as well as a barbecue lunch.

The club is located on Main Street, Whitfield and more information about the day is available by calling Pete Christison on 0458 550174 or Graeme Stanyer on (03) 5729 3523, or see the Whitfield and District Golf Club page on Facebook.



RECOGNITION: Galen Vex Robotics team members Mitchell Currie Fraser, Rutvik Chaudhary, Madalynn Baumanis, Lachlan Carboon, Jye Spinks and Erin Chadban, with Dan Larochelle from the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, and the Galen team's math division service award, which they won at the world championships in Kentucky.

## Peer award for Galen VEX team

GALEN College's VEX Robotics team has been recognised for its strong peer support while taking part in the world championships in Louisville, Kentucky.

The team collected a peer-voted service award for its efforts in the math division of the championships.

This award is given to a team that is always willing and able to help other teams

in need of assistance, with resources, knowledge and encouragement.

Galen's team finished the championships in 74th place, after some robot issues saw them drop from 54th position.

"To get voted by their peers for the way they interacted with them is such a credit to these wonderful kids," Galen science teacher Maree Timms, who is travelling with

the team, said. "Just amazing."

"It just goes to show you VEX is way more than just the robot. "So, so proud."

The team left Louisville yesterday, and arrived in Orlando, where they visited Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Station for a tour and lunch with an astronaut.

They will arrive back in Melbourne on Friday morning.

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# Thank you Wangaratta!



## From Galen's VEX Team

Galen Catholic College VEX Robotics Team would like to thank the following organisations for their assistance and support, in allowing us to reach our dream of going to the VEX World Championships USA. It has been an unbelievable journey and you've given us the opportunity to learn, grow and develop many more skills. We're really grateful for your support.

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### PLATINUM DONATIONS



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Inner Wheel Club of Whorroughly, St Vincent De Paul  
Wangaratta, One Mile Motors Wangaratta,  
Catholic Parish of Kerang

- Special thanks to the Chaudhary family for our wonderful team t-shirts.
- Thanks to Bunnings Wangaratta for allowing us to fundraise at their BBQs, carwash and Community Fun Day.
- Edwards Street Butchers for great deals on sausages.
- Toyworld Wangaratta for allowing us to sell our VEX toys in their store.
- All the people that have supported us on our journey to VEX Worlds.

Your generous contributions are all part of our amazing journey to the VEX Robotics World Championships 2019 in the USA. Thank you!



## Proud to be Galen!

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## facebook

FACEBOOK users discussed where a new 30-bed alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation unit will be built in Wangaratta and the need for the centre locally.

- Anthony Davidson: rehab is for quitters
- Diane Robinson: Good job. And jobs for them too
- Kat Livingstone: Old tech school would be my punt
- Fiona Watson: Wait for all the it's a great idea but not in my street complaints
- Kelli Simmons: About time.

Sam Tobias: awesome news.

Helen Senior: What about helping the diabetics with their expenses. It's not their choice but a life threatening disease.

- Karly Smith: Fantastic news!
- Tamara Clark: About time
- Lisa Delahunty Peach: So what happened to Odyssey House at Molyullah???? Or are we, as tax payers, expected to fork out for this??

Mel Evans: Still there I thought? There is just an overwhelming demand.

- Damien N Haylee Currie: Still there. Takes up to 3 months to get in and that's if you're already clean and pass their interviews. It's \$250 a week.
- Carolann Collier: Long overdue
- Sue Vassallo: Wangaratta has needed this a long time ago. We have lost a whole generation to ice. Finally somewhere to get the help they deserve.

Jason Oils Brooker: Yes there is a need

- Greta Westra: Yay that's good to hear. About time.
- Marianne Hamilton: Positive news for North East Vic
- Nem Chaudhry: Excellent incentive to help the community - I'm so happy to hear there will be facilities and accommodation readily available to those affected
- Samantha Pond: This is great, but you're gonna need more than 30 beds.
- Liz Blair: Omg about time



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lindadagostino\_artist: Ceremony of parting #recycle #oldbooks #janeeyre #hiddenpoem

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Check out some of our best photos at our @wangchronicle Instagram account.

## Wangaratta's top tweets

TWITTER was awash this week with tweets about the Wangaratta Players' latest production, The Winslow Boy, and Galen's VEX Robotics team's successes.

Wangaratta Players @WangPlayersInc Final weekend of The Winslow Boy this weekend, with performances from tomorrow night. Don't miss out on this excellent drama!

Cathryn Carboon @cathcarboon It's not often that you see #Wangaratta #Australia being mentioned on the world stage. We are all still amazed by your incredible journey congratulations

Dr. Amanda Caples @Vic\_LeadSci Extremely cool team @GalenVEX, team @maretimms @BrettEWWebber and team #Wangaratta! To be recognized by your peers for willingness to help others is Looking forward to meeting you all soon!



If you have something to say, add our handle @wangchronicle to your tweet and we will publish some each week.

## Tweet



Sarah Notarianni @Sarahnotarianni

A year on... @WeFightForFair Wangaratta continuing to show our support for @cfmeu members in Myrtleford



Tweet your reply



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**SKILLS TO THE TEST:** Wangaratta students, including Galen Catholic College's Chiara Lestino, Jorja O'Connor, Paris McLaurin and James Parker, took part in last weekend's North East and Southern Riverina VEX Robotics Championships at the Galen stadium.

## Students win titles with battle bots

By SIMONE KERWIN

LOCAL schools continued to shine in the VEX spotlight when they took part in the North East and Southern Riverina VEX Robotics Championships at Galen Catholic College stadium recently.

Eighty young people aged from grade five to year 11 took the chance to battle it out for a place at the upcoming VEX Nationals, to be held in Adelaide in December.

The VEX Robotics competition tasks teams of students with designing and building robots to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge, testing their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills as well as developing teamwork, leadership and communication abilities.

Tournaments are held year-round at the regional, state and national levels, and

these culminate at the VEX Robotics World Championships each April, which were attended this year by three North East teams.

Galen's junior VEX IQ team achieved the teamwork champion award, alongside its partner team from Wodonga Middle Years College, while Wangaratta Primary School claimed the VEX IQ judges' award.

Galen's senior VRC teams snared three awards on the day.

## An environmental revolution with electric vehicles

By ASHLEIGH PILES

FOR Frank Reeves, owning electric cars is more than just being a part of the latest craze, it's an environmental revolution.

The Wangaratta local bought his first electric car in 2008 and has since collected five more, currently boasting a garage of two Teslas, a Mitsubishi and a Blade Electron.

Formerly an engineer and electrochemist, Mr Reeves said his five car collection has a combined value of more than one million dollars.

"It is unfortunate they are called cars because they are extremely modern forms of transportation," he said.

"I think electric cars aren't the way of the future, they are the way of the present.

"I wouldn't even say I am an electric car convert, I just know how good they actually are."

Climate change and a deep appreciation for the environment have been the biggest push for Mr Reeves who believes electric cars are the "cheap way to save on carbon emissions".

"I have been worried about climate change since 1993," he said.

"I've invested in electric cars because there are no emissions from them and they only use a quarter as much fuel.

"Looking after the environment is the most important thing to me, I have spent my whole life looking after it."

Driving only an electric car is believed to reduce a person's individual carbon footprint by about 18 per cent

and although many still have safety concerns about the autonomous features, Mr Reeves said "the Tesla is the safest car in the world".

"You don't have petrol to explode, there is no heavy battery to make the car roll and the engine isn't almost sitting in your lap," he said.

"It has so many controls to avoid accidents and you practically start saving money as soon as you start driving it.

"To recharge my smallest car costs about \$2 and the biggest about \$10 as opposed to the price of fuel at the moment. It's like charging your iPhone."

As for whether he would go back to petrol cars again, the answer was very simple.

"Going back to petrol would be like going back to the 1800s," he said.



**CHARGED UP:** Wangaratta's Frank Reeves boasts a pretty impressive garage, displaying three of his five electric cars. Mr Reeves' newest addition to the collection is a Tesla Model 3.

PHOTO: Ashleigh Piles

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# Galen wins a spot at world championship



BY JEFF ZEUSCHNER  
jzeuschner@nmedia.com.au

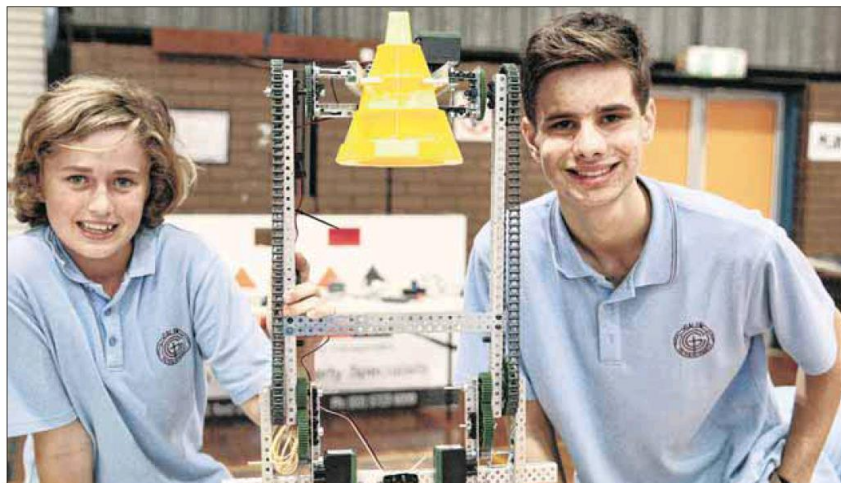
GALEN Catholic College has won the right to represent Australia at the World VEX Robotic Championships in the USA next year.

In a sterling performance, all three of the college's teams won awards at the Australian National VEX Robotics Championships, held at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre for a second successive year on Saturday.

"The results are a total surprise, but we're over the moon," enthused Galen teacher Maree Timms, a member of the local committee which helped stage the national championships.

"Our middle school team, led by Lachlan Carboon, won the Excellence Award for the championships, which earns a spot at the world championships in Louisville, Kentucky (USA) in April (25 to 28) next year. "To win that award the team needed to excel in all areas...the interview with judges, their log book, robot driving skills and points won by their robot during competition matches."

Galen's junior team, led by Ryan Falconer and Mitchell Holt, teamed up with former Aussie champions from Hillscrest to be the Tournament Champions, while Galen's senior team,



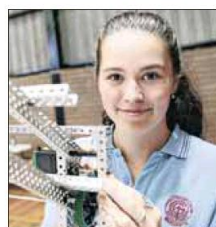
led by Madalynn Baumanis, won the Design Award.

Ms Timms, who received the 'Volunteer of the Year Award', said the commitment by all students - who gave up lunch hours and after school hours to work on the robots - was commendable, and their talent was outstanding.

"Students use computer programming, coding, engineering and mathematical skills to construct, operate and compete with their robots," she said.

Ms Timms said while flood concerns had prevented 20 of the 60 expected teams compete, reigning champions Hillscrest and other top teams still made it to the event.

Another round of competition will be held in Mel-



bourne this weekend, where the other two Australian spots to the world championships will be decided.

Ms Timms said Galen will now start to plan major fund-raising activities to get a representative team to the world championships in the USA.

"It's just so exciting and a great reward for all the effort put in by everyone," she said.

**ROBOTS ON THEIR MINDS:** Wangaratta was well represented at the championships with (above, right) Lachlan Carboon's team, including Danny Wicks, winning the Excellence Award and (left) Madalynn Baumanis and her team winning the Design Award. Borinya College's team members, including (at right) Nathan Kent and Ruby Mercer, also scored very highly.

PHOTOS: Emma Hillier



## Crackdown on speed limit rule

By SAMANTHA DICK

WANGARATTA Highway Patrol has warned drivers to slow down to 40kph when driving past a police or emergency vehicle displaying a flashing blue, red or magenta light, or risk a \$277 fine.

The new law was introduced in an effort to improve the safety of law enforcement or emergency workers who are assisting at a scene.

Sergeant Michael Connors of Wangaratta Highway Patrol said he was disappointed to note that despite five months passing since the rule was introduced on July 1, drivers are "not adhering to it".

"Talking from personal experience, it's placed our members in serious danger," Sgt Connors told the *Wangaratta Chronicle*.

"Only recently there was an incident on Snow Road where a vehicle sped past at 100kph within 50cm of me while I was standing on the side of the road.

"I've seen it happen to other members, not just me... and I'm not prepared to lose another member."

In instances where there is no dividing strip on the road, vehicles driving in both directions must slow down.

"There will be no leniency," Sgt Connors warned.

"It's just not on."

## \$850 for unlawful assault with a beer

A MAN who poured a schooner of beer over his ex-girlfriend at a Wangaratta pub has pleaded guilty to unlawful assault.

The 29 year old Taminick man fronted Wangaratta Magistrates' Court last week, where the court heard he insulted his ex-girlfriend and poured a beer over her during a night out with friends on June 21.

Defence counsel Geoff Clancy said "it was an emotional moment" for his client, who understood it was unacceptable behaviour.

Magistrate Stella Stuthridge placed the man on a 12-month good behaviour bond and ordered him to pay \$850 to the court fund.

## Pets find loving homes

RSPCA Victoria's CatPac adoption drive was a purring success, with 10 of the 168 cats adopted finding forever homes in Wangaratta.

The campaign was held from November 23 to 25 to make room for the kittens that will enter the Connell Street facility in the coming months.

"We still have sweet, affectionate cats available," RSPCA Victoria chief executive officer Dr Liz Walker said.

"We encourage anyone interested in adoption to visit [rspcavic.org](http://rspcavic.org)."

## Free disposal of asbestos

RESIDENTS can safely dispose of any household asbestos for free at the Bowser Landfill at North Wangaratta this Saturday.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is allowing community members to dispose of up to 10 square metres of domestic asbestos (commercial operators exempt) between 8am and 11am on the day.

Asbestos must be double wrapped in black builders plastic and sealed with tape.

Bookings are essential and must be made at least 24 hours in advance - call 5722 0888.

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# News from our SCHOOLS & KINDERS

## Welcome to new friends



**NEW YEAR:** Georgia Mathewson and Katherine Clark have joined the school's staff team.

### ● Glenrowan Primary School

## Back to school

WHILE students were enjoying the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, the start of a new school year is also an exciting time for staff.

The school is delighted to welcome Georgia Mathewson who is teaching grade six and Katherine Clark who is teaching F/1.

They have been warmly welcomed into the school community.



● Appin Park Primary School

**WARM WELCOME:** Students including Xavier Bassett, Jimi Pell (with teacher Maddy Selwood), Paige Whitecross and Emma James are ready for another exciting year at Appin Park Primary School.

STUDENTS were keen to get back to school last Wednesday, catching up with new and old class mates in readiness for another year of exciting and challenging learning.

Along with the new prep students, there were a number of new families to the school, with students entering into a variety of year levels.

Graduate teacher, Maddy Selwood, was just as keen, and just as nervous as the new students, but couldn't wait to greet her class of year 1/2 students.

Her first official job as a teacher couldn't have started any smoother.

"Support from the staff made me feel more relaxed and after first meeting the students and some of their parents, we settled into transitioning back into the classroom, getting to know each other," she said.

"I'm excited about the year ahead."

## Cracking the robotics code

### ● Wangaratta Regional Study Centre

STUDENTS from Galen Catholic College, working with a grade six student from Glenrowan Primary School, led and mentored participants taking part in a two-day STEM inspired holiday workshop held at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre during the school holidays.

Primary aged kids were given a hands-on introduction to robotics and coding, with the sessions including five different activities where they learnt to design, build, code and drive robots and to create apps and games.

The popular workshop was once again fully booked, with 25 participants taking part representing seven different schools.

**DRIVER'S SEAT:** Aimee McLaurin (eight) and Emily Hogan (12) got down to the business of driving robots during the holiday program presented by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee.



## Off to a great start

WELL the first day of school arrived and the school saw some very excited foundation children and their year six 'buddies' together.

The older children visited the foundation classes and spent some time reacquainting themselves with their little charges.

It is always a beautiful event to watch, seeing the older children take on their leadership roles with the new foundation students.

They shared their recess snack together and then lead the little ones over to the playground to explore

**FIRM FOUNDATION:** Year six students were pleased to meet their new foundation buddies, including Amelia Sharp and Chloe Lestino (left), and Taite Bevan and Alex Tekisic (below).

### ● St Patrick's Primary School

their school surrounds.

This happened every day of the first week of school and it certainly helped the foundation students to settle in beautifully.

The 'buddy' system works so well and makes the transition into school life for the younger students a very gentle experience.

Well done to the excellent role modelling by St Patrick's year six students.

## QUIZ QUESTIONS

## TEST YOUR SCIENCE SMARTS

**1** What is the most abundant element in the universe? Is it a) helium, b) magnesium, c) nitrogen, or d) hydrogen?

**2** Heliocentrism is an astronomical model attributed to Copernicus. Does it mean, a) the Moon revolves around Earth, b) the Sun revolves around Earth, c) Earth and the planets of the solar system revolve around the Sun, or d) the Sun, Moon, planets and stars all revolve around Earth?

**3** The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be primarily hosted by two countries, of which Australia is one. Which other country has been chosen to host the SKA? Is it a) Chile, b) India, c) South Africa, or d) the United States of America?

**4** Prior to sending humans into space, animals were sent into space. Which of these animals was the first to visit space? Was it a) fruit flies, b) a monkey, c) a dog, or d) a nest of mice?

**5** What is the main source of energy for all life on Earth? Is it a) gravity, b) the Sun, c) electromagnetism, or d) dark matter?



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**QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. d) Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe. 2. c) Heliocentrism implies the Sun is at the centre of the solar system. Earth and the other planets of the solar system revolve around the Sun. 3. b) India. 4. a) Fruit flies were the first animals to visit space. 5. c) The Sun is the main source of energy for all living things on Earth. Energy is harvested from the Sun by plants (and a few other organisms) in a process called photosynthesis. Photosynthetic organisms are then eaten by other organisms and the energy travels up the food chain.



## Wangaratta Chronicle facebook.

FACEBOOK commenters shared their thoughts on the \$5 million Wangaratta railway precinct beautification project, which received \$2.5 million in funding from the State Government last week.

**Annee Daglish:** Put the 5 million toward upgrading rail services

**Deb Butler:** Pity there is no money to fix our inefficient train system so people can use it

**Scott de Bresser:** It is not council's job to get the trains right! It will be amazing for all

the travellers and tourists to see a beautiful first impression of Wangaratta.

**Debbie Brown:** The job will only be 1/2 done if Spearing Street on the other side of the railway station is left as is... a mess... #dothejobright

**Carol Heath:** I agree Deb - Wang needs a lot done - just driving around the streets they need lots of attention big time

**Zoe Dunstan:** While I agree that the town needs a little love, it's a shame that it comes with such a hefty price tag. I haven't seen

the plans so I don't know where that money is going exactly, but it seems quite extravagant. I hope it's worth the money spent.

**Debra Whitehead:** What train station? It's a bus depot.

**Anne Diffey:** You should not beautify one side of the railway line, when the other side in Spearing Street looks like a lake every time there is rain. Water is all across the road for quite some distance. The residents of this street have put up with and complained for at least the last eight years.

**Leah Khoo:** More jobs need to be created in Wangaratta before beautifying a railway station, priorities!

OTHER users commented on the announcement that a drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation facility will be located at the former Owens College site in Greta Road.

**Ian Corbett:** Finally the place will be put to good use

**Kim Winnell:** Yes the right hub for this facility. Police station across the road and it's not in anyone's faces.



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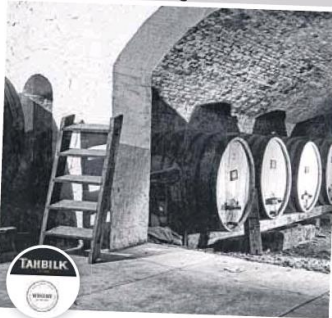
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Wangaratta Chronicle

### Instagram



tahbilkwinery tahbilkwinery: The Tahbilk Cellars in 1951, not much has changed here!

follow



Check out some of our best photos at our @wangchronicle Instagram account.

### Wangaratta's top tweets

TWITTER was awash with excitement for horse racing at the Wangaratta Racecourse.

**Dona McQueen @DonaMcQueen**  
Heading off to Wangaratta races today with some students to catch up with. I'll be strapping for the mighty @FeekeRacing crew as well. Hope they win

**Rj&shaza fatboy @Rj71849236**  
Wangaratta today let's see how we go today in the office with a great day racing

**Ben Dewhurst @bennydewhurst**  
@Punters that sad feeling that the weekend is over just got replaced with excitement. A 10 race card at Wangaratta, bring on Monday.



If you have something to say, add our handle @wangchronicle to your tweet and we will publish some each week.



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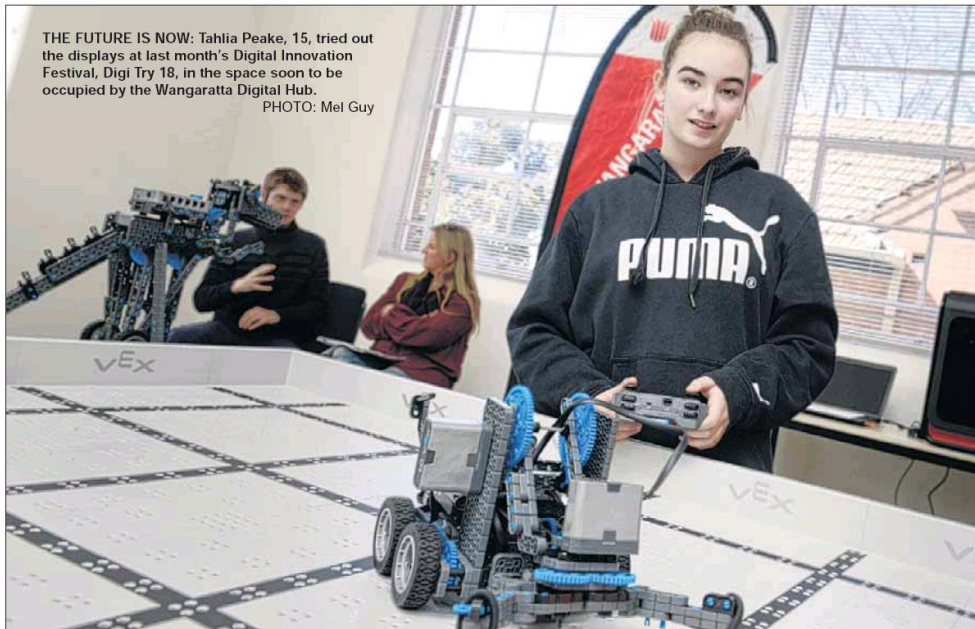
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THE FUTURE IS NOW: Tahlia Peake, 15, tried out the displays at last month's Digital Innovation Festival, Digi Try 18, in the space soon to be occupied by the Wangaratta Digital Hub.

PHOTO: Mel Guy

# Our starting point for digital growth

A DIGITAL technology 'hub' will soon fill space vacated by the former High Country Library Corporation in Docker Street.

The Wangaratta Digital Hub, which won State Government funding in May (\$300,000 over three years), will be established in coming months in the space to the left of the Wangaratta Library entrance.

Planning for the hub has involved North East Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network, Digital Technologies Advisory Committee, Rural City of Wangaratta, Charles Sturt University, GOTAFE and local IT specialists.

Anne Shaw, from NE Tracks LLEN and a member of DTAC, said the hub would be a "safe and welcoming space" and the first point of contact for anyone interested in finding out more about digital technology.

It would be aimed at supporting engagement in digital activities and start-ups, and establishing and promoting networks that



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nedia.com.au

foster an innovation culture.

Ms Shaw said the hub would be open to people of all knowledge levels, with the opportunity to refer enquiries to the most appropriate organisation or provider.

"A lot of people, if they don't know something, will go to council or to the library, and we want them to have the same level of comfort with the hub," she said.

Penny Hargrave, Rural City of Wangaratta manager arts, culture and events, said the project was a step towards delivering on council's CBD master plan objective of providing lifelong learning opportunities.

"This is what the library is there to do; it's as much about books as it is being up to date with current technology, so it's very complementary," she said.

**“**  
*It is something that will grow and evolve, and the sky's the limit, really.*  
**- PENNY HARGRAVE**

Ms Hargrave said there had been a competitive expression of interest process for the space in the library building, which is owned by GOTAFE.

"The group going in there had to be inclusive and open to everyone, we didn't want it to be locked away for offices," she said.

"And while we can fight it if we want to, the advance of digital technology is the way of the world, so this is a really exciting program, and it's a perfect space for it."

With more than 115,000 people

visiting the Wangaratta Library annually, and an average of 50,000 queries directed to library staff each year relating to internet and computer issues, Ms Hargrave said it made sense to position the digital hub in Docker Street.

"The key to choosing a tenant for the space was to find what would attract the most number of people, and this is something that will assist everyone from older people looking for help in setting up their mobile phones, to kids exploring a new way of learning," she said.

"It's a stepping stone, and feeds into education, as well as helping people develop basic skills, and will open up opportunities for everyone who wants to participate in that space."

"It is something that will grow and evolve, and the sky's the limit, really."

"It will be a space where people can come and feel safe, regardless of their knowledge, and feel part of the community."

## Expected rain prompts Flood Watch from SES

A FLOOD Watch has been issued for the North East Catchment, taking in the Ovens, King, Upper Murray, Mitta Mitta and Kiewa rivers.

The precautionary warning, issued by the SES yesterday and expected to be updated later this morning, suggested localised minor flooding may develop in the North East catchments from last night into today.

The warning was based on a low pressure trough over South Australia expected to move across Victoria and bring rainfall totals of 20-30mm across the North East catchments, with isolated higher totals of up to 50 mm on the ranges.

The SES said rainfall in the catchment, which is already relatively wet following recent rain, together with added effects of runoff from snowmelt may cause river rises from late yesterday, with the possibility of localised areas of minor flooding developing in the North East catchments from early on Friday.

For updates go to [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au).

**WANGARATTA RSL**

*Preserve the Memory*

---

**ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

An ordinary meeting of Members will be held on Tuesday 11th September commencing at 5pm upstairs in the 2/24th Function Room. Members will be given an update on the progress of the relocation to the Sydney Hotel.

---

**SPRING MENU**

New Spring Menu now available. Come on in to the club for a delicious meal in our Diggers Bistro.

---

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# WANGARATTA Chronicle

## We still have a long way to go

IN a week when we should be celebrating the achievements of women across our community and the world, we should not forget the challenges most women have faced, and face even today, as a gender.

Exactly four weeks ago former Wangaratta journalist Alissa Jane Rhodes featured on our front page to promote her personal battle with eating disorders as a teenager and in later years as a mother of four children.

Alissa hoped that by telling her own story she could help others who are affected by this heart breaking condition and based on the responses we have received that hope has certainly been realised.

One brave young woman, Felicity Ramsay, came to us after reading Alissa's story and offered to speak about her experiences battling anorexia nervosa which was caused primarily by subtle and direct pressure from other people about her appearance.

Her experience as a dancer, where expectations of a certain size and appearance can still torment even the strongest personality, is one that is not uncommon even today.

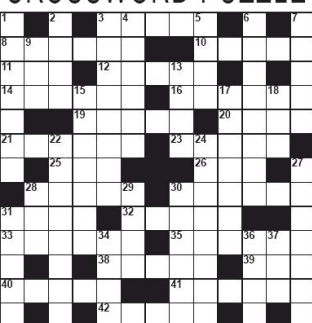
Like Alissa, Felicity has experienced the lowest of low points but has come through a stronger, wiser person and no doubt her example and willingness to share her story will help others who find themselves in a similar situation.

Each story shared some common elements, the courage of the women involved and the ignorance many of us might have about the deadly power a thoughtless word may have.

Apart from the personal and emotional pain Felicity experienced perhaps the most tragic chapter of her story occurred when she returned to complete her graduate year after being to hell and back and ready to face the world again only to be told that if she lost 10 kilograms "she could dance anywhere in the world".

Felicity's story is on page 12.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 3 Indistinct
- 8 Talisman
- 10 Envelops
- 11 Central
- 12 Dwelling-place
- 14 Cricket team
- 16 Bearlike
- 19 Correct
- 20 Soon
- 21 Workshops
- 23 Of the sun
- 25 Fastener
- 26 Place
- 28 Dentures
- 30 Discourages
- 31 Classify
- 32 Sky-coloured
- 33 Supplication
- 35 Spring back
- 38 Set again, as type
- 39 Barrier
- 40 Diaphanous
- 41 Long pace
- 42 Hot Mexican sauce

### DOWN

- 1 Photographic equipment
- 2 Ill-mannered
- 3 Strongly emotional
- 4 Makes up for
- 5 Water pitcher
- 6 Apply French dressing
- 7 Trembling poplar
- 9 Wire diameter measurement
- 13 Soapy lather
- 15 Diversity
- 17 Acknowledges rank
- 18 And not
- 22 Performs surgery
- 24 Short, light opera
- 27 Conducted to seats
- 28 Hill
- 29 Swift rodent
- 30 Constraint
- 31 Sudden convulsion
- 34 Does wrong
- 36 Wading bird
- 37 Boy



## VOXPOP



**JOHN GRIFFITHS, WHOROUPLY**  
Retired so it doesn't come into our way of thinking these days. I was involved with the union and working conditions were always involved and keeping conditions.



**FRANK BELMONT, GRETA**  
Working as usual. There is no eight hour on the farm.



**TERRY CLARK, WANGARATTA**  
Probably babysitting kids, so that's not really celebrating.



**TEGAN VOGEL, WANGARATTA**  
Nothing. We are both off work since we have a two week old baby.



**DARCY CORBOY, WANGARATTA**  
I don't work eight hours, I work well over eight hours.

*What are you doing this weekend to celebrate the introduction of the eight hour working day?*

## LETTERSTOEDITOR

### Regional rail trust and politics issues

IT'S hard to trust the Liberals and Nationals' rail announcement - going by the history books.

When last in government they didn't order a single new carriage for two years, didn't start a rail project anywhere and ripped \$120 million out of V/Line - and it was a Liberal National Government that shut regional rail lines.

We've stopped the cuts, restored the funding to V/Line, ordered 87 new regional carriages and already begun the design work needed to run V/Locity carriages on long haul lines.

We've added 600 services to the regional network and additional V/Locity carriages to services that need it most.

These carriages, built in Victoria, reduce crowding on the busiest services and allow more trains to run more often and we've invested in the design work necessary to replace the classic fleet with modern trains.

If the Coalition wants to do something useful for V/Line users they should pick up the phone to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and tell him to release the money he has promised for Regional Rail Revival so we can get on with upgrading every regional line and run modern trains across the state.

**Jacinta Allan,**  
Minister for Public Transport

### CFA facility needs a thorough check

THE new firefighting facility near Wangaratta must be fully investigated for its ability to pollute local waterways.

The chemicals used can be a dangerous cancer causing issue, which if my information is correct would damage waterways locally as well.

Surely the Wangaratta council should be wise enough to fully check into the materials used, types of training and chemicals as we do not want another Fiskville type situation locally.

**John Vance, Wangaratta**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Council's response to the Wangaratta Chronicle: "Any application for planning approval will be assessed in accordance to relevant requirements as at the time. Depending on the type of application this may include specific technical input from specialist referral agencies."

## YOURSAY

WE welcome your letters to the Editor. Priority is given to typed/ emailed letters under 250 words. Every letter must have your full name, address and a daytime phone contact number supplied for verification purposes. Any letter may be edited for reasons of space, content or legibility.

## Beyond the Black Stump



## WANGARATTA CHRONICLE web poll

Votenow at...  
wangarattachronicle.com.au

### Is it harder for youth today than it was 25 years ago?



**SCIENCE WORKS:** Galen Catholic College students Lachie Carboon and Mitchell Currie-Fraser demonstrated robotics to students at Wangaratta Primary School during their visit last week.  
PHOTO: Emma Hillier

### Team on their way to VEX championships

THE count down is on for members of the Galen Catholic College robotics team, who have been busy raising money in preparation for their trip to the USA in just over a month's time.

Students in the middle school team beat the odds last year to win a spot in the World VEX Robotic Championships being held in Louisville, Kentucky in April, and they've been out and about spreading the word and garnering support for the tilt at the world title.

They've held sausage sizzles, run demonstrations at a number of local clubs and centres and received a visit from Cathy McGowan (MHR, Indi) who came especially to the school to meet them.

Galen eLearning coordinator



**BY ANITA McPHERSON**  
amcpherson@nmedia.com.au

Maree Timms said they've also been back to their old primary schools where they hoped to inspire more scientists of the future.

"Mitch and Lachlan went to Wangaratta Primary School, Rutvik and Jye will be going to Our Lady's, and Maddy and Erin visited St Patrick's Primary School last year," she said.

"This has been a really positive experience not only for the VEX kids but for the teachers that used to teach them."

The team's success may well be inspiring a renewed

interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, with a recent "Girls in STEM Breakfast" attracting over 60 primary and secondary students who got the chance to mingle with STEM industry leaders and role models.

So far the team has raised \$25,000 toward the \$30,000 estimated cost of their trip, and they're thrilled to have received the support of local clubs including Lions, Leo, Rotary and Zonta, along with the Galen Parents Association who got together \$15,000 to help them on their way.

Anyone wanting to help or find out more can visit the Wangaratta VEX Robotics Team on Facebook, or contact the school.

Email [edit.chronicle@nmedia.com.au](mailto:edit.chronicle@nmedia.com.au)  
Post Letters to the Editor,  
37 Rowan St, Wangaratta 3677





## Chronicle

### 'Super' fraud needs to stop

THE revelations in today's edition concerning lost superannuation in the North East and Hume regions demands action from the Federal Government.

It is totally unacceptable that so many workers have lost so much money that by law they are entitled to yet there seems no action or support that they can get from the government.

Once superannuation is lost, particularly if it was meant to be accruing over a number of years, it is not just that amount that is gone but the future accumulated sum which, depending on the term and the returns, can be substantially more.

For many workers, particularly at a young age who may have lost "a few thousand dollars", they are not likely to replace that lump sum in their retirement accounts which can have a massive impact when they come to retirement age.

Businesses by law have to pay superannuation and there must be a way for the government to ensure those payments are in fact made and retained in secure, guaranteed accounts that businesses do not have access to.

In the end, we will all pay; the government with our tax dollars will have to make up retirement shortfalls through the pension while the retirees will have far less at their disposal than what they planned.

The Federal Government has unashamedly flexed its muscles where unions are concerned with its ABCCC legislation yet when it comes to major companies such as the big four banks there seems less enthusiasm to hold an enquiry or set up a meaningful watchdog.

Superannuation is seen as the one great hope of saving the Federal Government's budget in the future as our ageing population reaches retirement.

But if people lose faith or their money in superannuation that hope will soon be lost.

## VOXPOP

### Do you support voluntary euthanasia?



REBECCA GOLIA, WANGARATTA  
I think I do support it. I think it's cruel to let people suffer and live in pain.



SARAH HAMPTON, PARKES  
Definitely; my mum has always been a believer and now she has Alzheimer's and is asking to go.



LES LEITH, WANGARATTA  
In certain circumstances I would say yes, but not in all cases.



LESLEY LEITH, WANGARATTA  
There are instances where it is advisable and where it is a benefit to the person.



MELISSA HAM, WANGARATTA  
I can't say I don't support it because sometimes there is a necessary reason for it.

## LETTERSTOEDITOR

### Drivers, please be watchful for cyclists

ROADSAFE North East takes very seriously the 'near miss' incident that occurred on Wandangary Road, where Barry Burns, a highly respected bike riding member of the community, was left shaken and fearful of cycling on local country roads (*Chronicle*, November 30).

Bike riders have every right to be on the road and motorists should not be surprised or resentful of their presence.

Road riding is an increasingly popular sporting and recreational activity and road cycling is strongly embedded in our culture, with the North East producing many road cycling champions, such as Barry.

We strongly urge motorists to take care when they see a cyclist, slow down and when it's safe and no other car is approaching, indicate and overtake allowing at least 1.5 metres between the cyclist and the vehicle.

I have spoken to Barry and reassured him that we will continue our efforts to help bring to life bicycle related safety messages, via community activation, promotion, education and awareness.

RoadSafe NE's electronic display board has been highly visible on the rural city's country roads most frequented by cyclists, as part of a cycle safe awareness program.

Displaying the message 'Pass Cyclists Safely - thank you' the board will be relocated to Wandangary Road later this month, as a visual reminder to motorists of the need to look for cyclists and take care when passing.

As a community cycle safety organisation, we realise that the causes of incidents are multi-faceted and the solutions are too.

That's why we work closely with the Amy Gillett Foundation, to promote a mindset of shared respect between bike riders and motorists.

We are one community on the road and everyone has the right to ride safely for work, sport and play.

John Myles, RoadSafe NE spokesperson

### Why the rush on pool consultation?

THE first notifications of the Community Conversations for the redevelopment of the Yarrunga pool site started to appear in the *Chronicle* on Friday, December 2.

They advertised consultation dates on only two days, Tuesday, December 13 and Thursday December 15, all of which take place during business hours and one at 8.30am.

None of these are suitable for those who work or have responsibilities to get families ready for school.

Even more concerning is the utter lack of

## WANGARATTA CHRONICLE web poll

Vote now at...  
wangarattachronicle.com.au

### Do you think North East Victorians should be actively seeking resettlement of asylum seekers?



COLLABORATION: Galen College students including Charlie McGrath, Rutvik Chaudhary and Lachlan Carboon work with visiting Hillcrest Christian College team members during Saturday's successful VEX Australian National Robotics Championships held in Wangaratta. Galen finished 19th in the overall rankings, with Borinya 24th and Wodonga Middle Years College 25th, but Galen and Borinya were chosen by the top-ranked teams as their alliance partners for the final. Organiser Maree Timms, a Galen College science teacher, said this highlighted the ideal of the event, which focuses on teamwork and cooperation.

PHOTO: Lelf Sallows

sensitivity by council staff in scheduling such a significant strategic work so close to Christmas when everyone's lives are that much busier and frantic towards the winding up of 2016.

The site has been derelict since demolition was completed in April 2016, so why the rush now two weeks before Christmas to suddenly ramrod through a so called community decision on the site?

Let's take our time and do this well.

Yet again Yarrunga pool site is treated without due respect.

Outrage over the CBD Masterplan consultation over Christmas (in 2015) afforded further time to that project, so why does Yarrunga pool consultation get boxed into two weeks before Christmas?

Jenny Hart, Wangaratta

### IGA deserved more community support

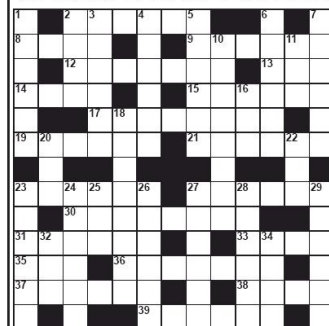
WE moved to this area in 2010 from Melbourne and of course stopped by the usual supermarkets, as you do.

I noticed the IGA and I heard Steve on the radio promoting it and doing so much not just for the community with price matching, employment and customer service, but they sourced as much local produce as possible and took pride in giving back to the community.

I made the conscious decision to support this local family and started doing my shopping there as much as possible to give back to them.

Celine Muir, Eldorado

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 2 Brave
- 8 Needy
- 9 Work havoc upon
- 12 Leopard in black form
- 13 Boy
- 14 Regrets
- 15 Dress
- 17 Public vote
- 19 Inferior
- 21 High regard
- 23 Discovered
- 27 Sea nymphs
- 30 Shell covering
- 31 Accustoms
- 33 Soothe
- 35 Male cat
- 36 Prosper
- 37 Fold
- 38 That following
- 39 Perfumes

### DOWN

- 6 Salty
- 7 Buy back
- 10 Aesthetically excellent
- 11 Slender fish
- 16 Small child
- 18 Young hares
- 20 Do wrong
- 22 Vast age
- 23 Hasty jerk
- 24 Keen insight
- 25 Vehicle
- 26 Morse elements
- 27 Literary ridicule
- 28 Soften attitude
- 29 Gymnastic achievement
- 32 And not
- 34 Employ

### Wednesday's Solution



## Beyond the Black Stump





# News from our SCHOOLS & KINDERS



**CATHEDRAL COLLEGE**

## Footy fun and action

THE football season has well and truly started at college, with the school hosting its first interschool football match on Friday, April 28.

Junior and middle school students had a perfect afternoon playing football and netball against Yarrunga, supported by many of the students on the hill.

**TOP TEAM:** Junior and middle school students have kicked off this year's football season.



**COOL CAMPERS:** Taking time out from making damper were (from top left) Akasha Riddell, Amy Cooke, staff member Ryan Hargreaves, Jack Davies, Shakira Banks, Olivia Miller, James Richards, Blake Batman, staff member Chloe Bray, Kane Swain and Andrew Sacco.

**WANGARATTA DISTRICT SPECIALIST SCHOOL**

## Camp adventure

MIDDLE years class Morgan recently made their way to 15 Mile Creek Camp for the day.

Although the weather didn't permit for some activities, everyone had a great time taking part in activities

including making a fire, cooking damper and going on a bike ride.

The school community thanks the wonderful staff at the camp for always providing a great day out for students.



**ON THE BALL:** Students including (from left) Charlie McGrath, Kieran Richards and Katelyn Papakostas dabble in code to control the school's new Sphero robots.

**GALEN CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

## Hands on with robots

**YEAR 10 students** studying VET IT have been experimenting with Sphero robots as part of their programming and robotics

unit of work. Using a new class set of the spherical robotics, students have been familiarising themselves with

coding language through iPad powered software. Students agreed the robots are great as the results are instant, with

the small brightly coloured Spheros carrying our sets of commands and movements as instructed from the iPad software.

**WANGARATTA WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**LEADING THE WAY:** The new house captains and vice captains appointed are (back, from left) Wade Ryan, Jackson Strudwick, Callum Northey and Tyler Wingrave with (front, from left) Ivy Middleton, Lydia Jacobson, Emma Graham and Summah Pausic.



## House captains appointed

THEY may all be names of Victorian mountains but Bogong, Buffalo, Hotham and Feathertop are also the names of the new school houses that have been introduced at the school.

The new house captains and vice captains appointed are for Bogong (green) Callum Northey and Emma Graham, for Buffalo (blue) Lydia Jacobson and Wade Ryan, for Hotham (red) Summah Pausic and

Tyler Wingrave and for Feathertop (yellow) - Ivy Middleton and Jackson Strudwick.

As well as being exciting, introducing friendly competition and building a sense of camaraderie, the house system has other advantages such as educating children in the concept of teamwork, as they soon work out working together will result in earning points as a reward.

Lifelong benefits can also be established with

positive behaviour, a constructive attitude and an optimistic work ethic ensuring a more resilient child.

For major events such as sports days, interschool events and the Walkathon there will be a greater opportunity for extra house points.

A trophy will be inscribed with the name of the house with the most points at the end of the year.

May the most deserving house be awarded the trophy.

## QUIZ QUESTIONS

## TEST YOUR SCIENCE SMARTS

**1** Excluding Antarctica, which continent reaches furthest south?

**2** How is NASA going to destroy the space ship Cassini?

**3** What kind of animal is the Australian trumpet?

**4** Where does cork come from?

**5** What is the lightest gas in the world? Is it:  
a) hydrogen, b) helium or c) carbon dioxide?

**QUIZ ANSWERS:** 1. South America reaches further south than South Africa, Australia, and even New Zealand. 2. Cassini will be flown into the planet Saturn. 3. The Australian trumpet is an enormous sea snail, which can grow to almost a metre in length. 4. Cork is the bark of the cork oak tree. 5. a).

For more **CSIRO Double Helix science** visit [www.csiro.au/helix](http://www.csiro.au/helix) or call 02 6276 6643.







**REPURPOSED:** Orchardist Colin Scott's old cherry crates will be carrying a gourmet lunch during the Glenrowan Winemakers Weekend at Morrisons on October 13 and 14.

## Lunch going retro at Morrisons of Glenrowan for winemakers weekend

PICNICS are going to have some serious vintage flair at Morrisons of Glenrowan during the Glenrowan Winemakers Weekend this Saturday and Sunday.

With a nod to recycling, re-using and zero waste, Morrisons will be packing their Saturday lunches into crates that were used by Glenrowan cherry orchards to freight their fruit to Melbourne in the 1950s.

Each crate will comfortably serve two adults and include goodies such as olives,

dips, a vegetarian frittata, Gamze Smokehouse meats and a garden salad, with some homemade biscuits and slices to finish.

It's being prepared by foodie Dianne Morrison, who said lunch will be served in these re-usable containers, and with pretty napery, cutlery and plates sourced from various op shops and the Morrisons' own collection.

"We're thrilled to be able

to breathe new life into the cherry picking crates we were given by Colin and Lurline Scott, former orchardists in Glenrowan," she said.

"Equally, I'm really pleased that the lovely mats and plates we'll be providing for our visitors are 100 per cent recycled.

"So the plan is, you enjoy a crate full of goodies in a spot of your choice in our bush garden.

"With live music, wine and coffee, it's going to be a

lovely day out for couples, friends and families."

Musician Adam Lindsay is set to play from 12pm to 3pm on Saturday at the winery, where visitors will be able to settle back and soak up the amazing views of the alps.

For bookings of a packed lunch on Saturday, or a plated lunch prepared by the King River Café on Sunday, email [info@morrisonswinery.com.au](mailto:info@morrisonswinery.com.au) or call or text Dianne Morrison on 0438 662 863.

**WANGARATTA Chronicle**  
Est. 1884, Incorporating Wangaratta Despatch, Est. 1861

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LOCAL NEWS AND MEDIA

### WEATHER



### TEMPERATURES:

Wednesday	Max 20 Mostly sunny	Min 10	
Thursday	Max 22 Sunny	Min 3	
Friday	Max 24 Mostly sunny	Min 5	
Saturday	Max 25 Mostly sunny	Min 8	

### RAINFALL:

	Last 72 hours	Last 7 days
Wangaratta	0.0mm	0.2mm
Lake Buffalo	0.0mm	0.2mm
Cheshunt	0.8mm	4.0mm

\*NB: Rainfall totals up until 3pm, Tuesday

### NEWS TIPS

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**HIGHLY COMMENDED:** Digital Technologies Advisory Committee members (from left) Bernadette Albertson, Anne Geddis and Maree Timms were excited to receive recognition for their work igniting love for science, technology, engineering and maths studies.

PHOTO: Freyja Postlethwaite

## Grassroots STEM program receives national praise

A CONVERSATION between Galen Catholic College teachers Maree Timms and Bernadette Albertson sparked an initiative that has been praised by Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, Philip Dalidakis.

The Digital Technologies Advisory Committee (DTAC), created by science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) teachers and facilitators, was shortlisted at the TechDiversity Awards last month.

Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, Philip Dalidakis, gave the group the High Commendation Award for their innovation, courage and collaboration in helping increase awareness and interest in STEM.

DTAC was established to foster an understanding of STEM studies and ignite passion for



BY FREYJA POSTLETHWAITE  
[fpostlethwaite@nemedia.com.au](mailto:fpostlethwaite@nemedia.com.au)

the subjects among students in local primary and secondary schools.

Initiatives organised by the group grew from the STEM Careers Expo to various workshops and holiday learning events to help students develop their love for learning.

Ms Timms said although DTAC and the Galen VEX Robotics Team were the only school-based initiatives involved in the awards, she hoped this would encourage other primary and secondary schools to explore ways to teach STEM.

"The TechDiversity Awards is really a corporate event - we were the outliers but hopefully

**“When you know you're onto something good that you do for the love, to see the minister recognise it as courageous and innovative is pretty cool.”**

**- MAREE TIMMS**

we could possibly pave the way for others in this area," she said.

"When you know you're onto something good that you do for the love, to see the minister recognise it as courageous and innovative is pretty cool."

Charles Sturt University Wangaratta community outreach coordinator and DTAC member, Anne Geddis, said the committee was already beginning to organise the calendar of programs for next year.

"We believe in what we're

doing and to have Mr Dalidakis say he likes our direction and our courage was incredible," she said.

"DTAC started from the one event and that developed into a full year's program pretty well - some things we have done in the past need to be changed but it's part of the constant evolution you see with technology.

"We're doing programs for primary school students now, because that's where the children can switch on or off and the passion starts there."



## Chronicle

### Restoring faith in Aussie sport

THE Commonwealth Games have provided plenty of highlights over the last week and not just for sports fanatics.

The variety of sports that are featured makes a nice change from the free to air diet of mainly elite professional competitions and the inclusion of the paralympians on an equal basis has broadened the true sporting appeal even further.

Some may have thought the behaviour in South Africa of the captain and vice-captain of the Australian Cricket team on the eve of the games may have lessened viewers' appetite for sport but the result has been the opposite.

Here we see athletes competing for the sake of their sport and their country where striving to perform at one's best is the priority rather than a win at all costs mentality.

Of course there will be competitors who blur the lines but it's the exception rather than the rule days in these competitions.

It's so refreshing to see arch-rivals on the track or in the pool congratulate each other after the contest with most satisfied with a 'minor' placing or in many cases no place at all.

Rarely are umpires or referees chastised and there are few tantrums compared to the higher profile and higher paid sports that generally frequent our screens.

The chance to represent your country and perform at your best seems a far higher priority than just winning or trying to get into the spotlight to boost your earning potential.

Maybe the only negative of the coverage is the excessive focus on Australia's success by the media, describing too many winners as heroes or the best in history.

Yes winners need praise but the idolatrous nature and gushing of some commentators is outright embarrassing.

It also lessens the positive message the athletes espouse time after time about wanting to work hard and do their best as their major measurement of success.

## VOXPOP



**XAVIER CORKER, WANGARATTA**  
Here at the skate park with my mates.



**SOLOMON STEER, WANGARATTA**  
Skate park and going to watch a movie.



**JETT SMITH, WANGARATTA**  
I'll be fishing on the Ovens.



**BRAYDON WARTON, WANGARATTA**  
Most probably drawing out in Eldorado. I like to draw.



**SPENCER JONES, WANGARATTA**  
Probably at the skate park and fishing.

*How will you be spending the last week of the school holidays?*

## LETTERSTOEDITOR

### Reaction needed on live export trade

AS yet another live export scandal breaks, with footage showing the agonising death of 2400 sheep on a live export ship headed to Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE, industry spokesmen and their government apologists rush out the usual trite phrases about "one-off" events and warning against "knee-jerk" reactions.

Maybe it's time for a knee-jerk reaction. This is the term used by doctors for a test of reflexes that indicate the health or otherwise of the human nervous system.

The live export trade is a profound sickness in our society, and ignoring it and hoping yet another incident of hideous cruelty will soon be forgotten just makes the patient, our community, that much sicker.

These thousands of sheep, many already used, abused and unwanted by the wool industry, died from extreme heat, many being unable to reach food and water and suffering behind the bodies of their neighbours, who were left to rot on deck.

The argument that this is acceptable because farmers make money from it does not hold water: people make money from cigarettes and illicit drugs too, but we try to stamp out those evils.

Not only is live export appallingly awful for the victims, it is environmentally devastating.

I authored a study a few years ago which estimated the total CO2 emissions of Australian live exports at approximately 1.8 million tonnes, which puts the live-export industry among the top 40 CO2 emitters in Australia.

Stopping the trade would be equivalent to removing approximately 320000 cars from Australian roads.

It's well over time for a knee-jerk reflex that will restore both our moral and environmental health by banning this obscene industry.

**Desmond Bellamy, PETA Australia**

### Keep faith in corruption watchdog

MOST Victorians are confident they know what corruption is and are willing to report it, according to research released today by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

IBAC surveyed more than 1200 Victorians to gauge their understanding and views of corruption.

The findings are detailed in IBAC's Perceptions of corruption: Survey of the Victorian community report.

## WANGARATTA CHRONICLE web poll

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*Do you think more should be done to reduce plastic pollution?*



**LETTER TWEET:**  
Dr Amanda Caples @Vic\_LeadSci

Thank you @marettimms and Brett Webber @GalenVEX for your beautiful letter describing your path to achieving @VEXRobotics World Championships. It made my day! Wishing you and students well for 22 April. Indeed, this video says it all [youtu.be/F-Fu3dFOiE](https://youtu.be/F-Fu3dFOiE)  
PHOTO: [scienceinpublic.com.au](https://scienceinpublic.com.au)

honest use of public funds to deliver public sector services.

IBAC investigations have led to prosecutions, convictions, the recovery of public funds, and, most importantly, improvement in public sector systems and practices to prevent corruption.

State government departments and local councils have advised us of new measures they are taking to identify and prevent corruption.

This shows that reporting corruption can lead to meaningful action.

IBAC will continue our work to raise awareness about corruption and its impact on our state, and to encourage people to report it.

**Alistair Maclean, IBAC CEO**

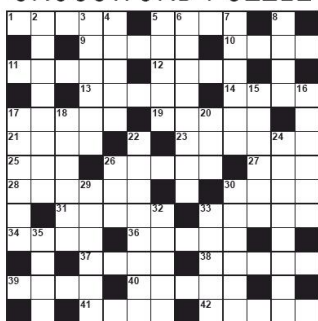
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Carries
- 5 Offshootings
- 9 Coral isle
- 10 Reflected sound
- 11 River of Paris
- 12 Subtle emanation
- 13 Low strong carts
- 14 Got bigger
- 17 Drawing room
- 19 Fixed gaze
- 21 Article
- 23 Cricket team
- 25 Limb
- 26 Measure of length
- 27 Finish
- 28 American inventor
- 30 Wise man
- 31 Locations
- 33 Of the sun
- 34 Makes lace
- 36 Artificial silk
- 37 Small duck
- 38 Fundamental
- 39 Conceal
- 40 Held principle
- 41 Regrets
- 42 Slender and long-limbed

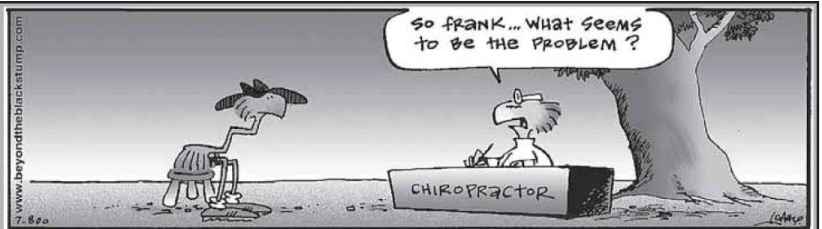
### DOWN

- 2 Lifted
- 3 Haphazard
- 4 Harsh
- 5 Kills
- 6 Bunches
- 7 Without fullness
- 8 Footwear
- 15 Make known
- 16 Roam
- 17 Mute
- 18 One versed in law
- 20 Drink
- 22 Revere
- 24 Attractive
- 26 Pithy saying
- 29 Sibling
- 30 Musical composition
- 32 Auctions
- 33 Not intoxicated
- 35 Operatic air

### SOLUTION



## Beyond the Black Stump





## Heat illnesses being prevented

STRONG awareness around taking care of yourself in the heat has been a catalyst behind a status quo in heat-related hospital admissions.

Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW) reports there hasn't been any rise in heat related illness admissions over the summer so far.

"There is, however, a high degree of awareness and strategies being implemented at NHW to manage the risk to patients and staff during periods of heatwave, specifically when discharging frail, sick or vulnerable patients, mothers going home with new babies and any Illoura aged care residents who are travelling," NHW chief executive officer Margaret Bennett said.

Some of the strategies in place include:

- a checklist to guide conversations with patients and/or their carers/family members to lessen the risk associated with leaving the air conditioned and supported environment of NHW on hot days;
- signage and cool water at all main entrances (Illoura, Clark St, ED and Green St) for the benefit of visitors;
- bottles of water in the fridges in the wards for patients travelling;
- bottled water available as a stocked item in the central kitchen should it be required elsewhere (district nurses etc...);
- specific arrangements for travelling district nurses on high temp days; and
- facility and infrastructure strategies, including the increased storage of diesel on site, to support generator function in case of a power outage.

# Students focus on world championships



BY ANITA  
McPHERSON  
amcpherson@  
nmedia.com.au

WHILE many high school students would rather be swimming or kicking back on the couch over the summer holidays, a team of dedicated young science buffs have already regrouped to prepare for a serious international challenge.

The enthusiastic students from Galen Catholic College have returned from their Christmas break to work on a new robot which they plan to enter in the World VEX Robotic Championships when they head to the USA for the event this year.

They'll be one of 1400 teams from around the world competing in the championships which Guinness World Records officially declared to be the largest robot competition in the world.

Three of the college's teams won awards in the Australian National VEX Championships held in December, with the middle school team led by Lachlan Carboon winning the Excellence award and a spot in the world championships taking place in Louisville, Kentucky from April 25 to 28.

It seems these regional kids are certainly punching above their weight, having only attended one competition last year where they beat the fourth-time reigning champions.

They've been putting their collective heads together, bringing a variety of skills to the table and researching the latest designs in the hope of creating an even better model this time around.

Student Madalynn Baumanis said while they were excited about their upcoming trip they had no idea what the outcome might be.

"We're not sure how we'll go in the competition, but then we weren't expecting to win last time - and we did - and now we're here, so who knows?" she said.

"Whatever happens, it's going to be a great experience."

Team leader Lachlan Carboon said while their new robot is virtually built, they're concentrating



TOP TEAM: Students from Galen Catholic College including (from left) Madalynn Baumanis, Damien French, Jye Spinks, Ryan Falconer, Mitchell Currie-Fraser, Lachlan Carboon and Erin Chadban, with (absent) Ratvik Chaudhary, are busy preparing for the World VEX Robotic Championships in April. PHOTO: Anita McPherson

on making some final adjustments while ensuring they meet the competition criteria in the lead up to the championships.

On a hot summer's day the group were totally focused on their project, meeting in the shed at one of the student's homes, but when school resumes they plan to devote their lunchtimes to the effort.

Parent Corina Falconer said the robotics competition, which is designed to incorporate all facets of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (or STEM subjects), had proved to be an inspiration and beneficial in a range of different ways, particularly for students more interested in tech-

nology than sports.

"It has brought them confidence, provided an opportunity for social interaction and the chance to be role models - the self-belief and confidence they've gathered is incredible," she said.

"It's character building and has made them feel worthy and important."

In the next few months the focus will be on fundraising to help the six team members and their band of supporters get to the world championships in April.

With the help of the Rural City of Wangaratta they're holding sausage sizzles during the Summer in the Parks program, there are plans for a goods and services

auction, while sponsorship from local businesses would also be welcomed.

Teacher Maree Timms said the competition offers sponsors the chance to support a project which is an important stepping stone for the students' academic future while accessing global exposure.

"This event is the Olympics of robotics and it's very much on the world stage - this year it will be live streamed around the world on CNN," she said.

Anyone interested in supporting the team to donate goods or services, or as a sponsor, can contact the school for more information or go to [www.facebook.com/galenVEX/](http://www.facebook.com/galenVEX/)

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#### The Greatest Showman (PG)

Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 5.45pm
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm



#### Coco + Olaf's Adventures (PG)

Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm

#### Star Wars: Last Jedi (M)

Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am

Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm
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(21610397-14842-17)



# Madalynn's care, passion for science is recognised



BY ANITA  
McPHERSON  
amcpherson@  
nmedia.com.au

A CANDIDATE who impressed with her work on robotics, commitment to STEM education and care for others has received Zonta's Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship for 2019.

Galen Catholic College year 12 student Madalynn Baumanis was selected as the Zonta International District 23 recipient, receiving USD\$1000 to assist with her future education endeavours.

The scholarships were established in 1990 for young women aged 16 to 19 who demonstrate commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Zonta International governor district 23, Jane Adornetto, said Madalynn's highlighting of issues such as suicide and comfort for oncology patients, also contributed to her successful application.

Madalynn is studying physics, chemistry, mathematical methods and specialist mathematics

**"To me volunteer work shows someone's true nature and exactly how they want to make an impact in their society."** - Madalynn Baumanis

at Galen and is heavily involved in its robotics team, acting as a mentor to younger students, including the recent Australian VEX IQ National Champions, who are 75 per cent female.

"I'm always trying to encourage more young women to study STEM based subjects and pursue what they're passionate about," Ms Adornetto said.

"As most STEM occupations are male dominated, it can be daunting for girls to get involved from an early age, but it all starts from breaking down those barriers and putting yourself out there.

"We have seen great growth and I hope we keep seeing these young women flourish in whatever they choose."

Madalynn said the monetary prize from Zonta would go towards her further education and university studies, as she is hoping to pursue a career in medicine.

"I'm truly honoured to have received this scholarship and to have been supported by both my



**YOUNG LEADER:** Madalynn Baumanis is this year's recipient of the Zonta's Young Women in Public Affairs Scholarship. PHOTO: Mel Guy

school and Zonta," she said.

"To me volunteer work shows someone's true nature and exactly how they want to

make an impact in their society.

"It only takes a bit of time and I love to make a differ-

ence to someone's life."

A formal presentation of the scholarship will be made in the near future.

## Local hotel a hit on TripAdvisor

WANGARATTA'S Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway has been awarded with a 2019 TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence.

TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel planning and booking site, annually announces Certificate of Excellence winners and the honour is awarded to approximately 10 per cent of accommodation providers, tourism experiences or restaurants that are listed on the site.

The selection criteria considers the quality, quantity and recency of traveller reviews on TripAdvisor and rewards businesses that deliver great customer service and consistently achieve outstanding reviews.

## Chance to show your creative flair

ASPIRING scribes from the Wangaratta area have just over a month to finalise their entries for this year's Young Writers Award.

Held as part of Wang Lit Fest for the first time last year, the competition is on again, and offers young people aged between 10 and 19 the chance to submit their writing in three categories - prose, poetry or song lyrics, and digital format.

Run by the Rotary Club of Wangaratta and supported by the Rural City of Wangaratta, the competition aims to unearth local talent - with prizes to the value of \$1800 up for grabs.

Winners will be invited to the award presentation at the literature festival on September 14 and 15.

For more information or to enter, visit or contact the Wangaratta Library in Docker Street on 5721 2366.

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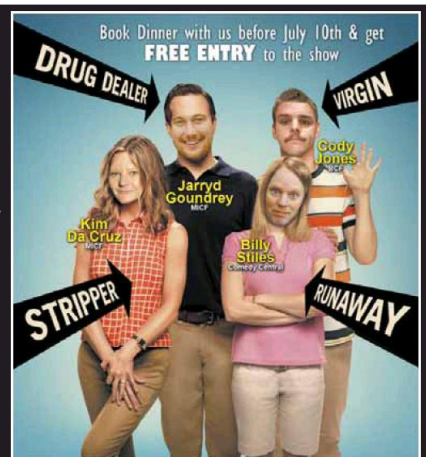
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# International doctor concern

■ Local MD claims course for overseas doctors comes too late for overseas graduates

A WANGARATTA GP has called for changes, warning that international doctors "have little chance" of passing a mandatory test to stay in Australia, potentially impacting rural practices nationwide.

Dr Julian Fidge, who mentors and supervises five international medical graduates (IMGs) who haven't had access to a training program that Australia trained doctors have, said they face "deregistration" if they don't pass the test.

The Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is the final step in training for these IMGs on a limited registration. Under the national law, limited registration can be renewed three times.

An IMG with limited regis-



BY STEVE KELLY  
skelly@nemia.com.au

tration, who wishes to continue to practise in Australia and has already renewed their registration three times, must make a new application for registration and meet the relevant, approved national standards.

"Australian graduates go onto the GP registrar program but there is no equivalent – overseas trained doctors (or IMGs) just get dumped here and are expected to pass the exam by some magical process," Dr Fidge said.

"This is an unmitigated and unnecessary disaster for rural Australia.

"We rely on IMGs to provide medical services throughout rural and regional Australia, and this will cripple general practice throughout Australia.

"The tests are the advanced tests to gain Fellowship of the RACGP and finish GP training. "They are difficult examinations.

"The reason the IMGs fail them is because they are not provided with the same post-graduate training opportunities as their Australian colleagues."

Dr Fidge, who is the Australian Country Party candidate for Ovens Valley, has labelled the move as "the worst discrimination" he has ever seen in Australia.

He said the Fellowship exams were introduced in 1992 by the RACGP but most GPs in



• Dr Julian Fidge

Australia who are over 50 years old have never sat the exam.

"How can it be that all of these white Australian private school doctors are safe to practice, without ever passing the exams, while the overseas trained doctors, who have also been practising without inci-

dent, are suddenly deemed unsafe?" Dr Fidge asked.

From January 1 next year, the RACGP will roll out its new Practice Experience Program (PEP) supporting non-vocationally registered (VR) doctors working in general practice with a purposeful education program in a bid to boost exam pass rates.

However, Dr Fidge said deregistration of doctors has already begun.

A spokesperson for the Medical Board of Australia said the board sets the standards for entry to medical practice in Australia, under the National Law.

She said these standards are approved by Australia's health ministers and apply across Australia.

"More than 25 per cent of doctors who have met the standard for full registration in Australia and are now practising without restriction in this country, gained their primary medical qualification overseas," the spokesperson said.

"The law and the board require employers to provide IMGs with limited registration with support and training so they can pass the necessary Australian exams."

Over the last six years, Australia has begun to rely more on local medical graduates and less on IMGs with limited registration.

In March 2012, there were 2436 doctors with limited registration for areas of need.

By January 2018, that number had reduced to 690.

## New possibilities, exciting pathways 'STEM' from expo

By SIMONE KERWIN

ALL is in readiness for Galen College's third annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Expo, to be held on Wednesday.

Conducted as part of National Science Week, the expo offers local schools and the community the chance to see STEM developments that are in motion within the region, and also to explore education pathways in these areas of learning.

It began in 2016

as the brainchild of Galen teachers Maree Timms and Bernadette Albertson, and has gone from strength to strength, attracting strong interest from attendees as well as regular stallholders.

This year's event will feature game changers and change makers from the industry, education providers, Galen's award-winning VEX robotics team, along with representation from Wangaratta High School, Cathedral College and Borinya Community Partnership.

Held in the Galen

stadium (entry from College Street), the expo will be open to schools on Wednesday from noon to 3pm, and the wider community from 4pm to 6pm.

For further information about the event, visit <http://galenstemexpo18.weebly.com>.

The STEM Expo is sponsored and supported by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee, GOTAFE, Charles Sturt University, NE Tracks, Galen Catholic College and Education Advantage.



PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE: Galen College's Ben Hester shows St Bernard's Primary School student Reegan Monk how to drive a VEX robot during last year's event. PHOTO: Mal Webster

## Local sports ignite kids' energy

By FREYJA POSTLETHWAITE

YARRUNGA Primary School grade fives and sixes are learning that there is no wrong way to get excited about being active.

Students have been visiting Cross Fit Wangaratta and Jenko Muay Thai Boxing each Friday as part of an effort to introduce them to different possibilities.

Yoga and other types of exercise will also feature in the sports program later in the year.

Key skills covered in both classes include specific technique, teamwork, encouragement and inclusivity.

Principal Fran Waterman said the children were very open-minded and receptive to the new classes.

"We're trying to teach them that even if they don't fit that football and netball mould, there are still other things they might enjoy," she said.

"They don't come into



STAY ACTIVE: Yarrunga Primary School grade six students Sophie McPhan, Sasha Watson and Sarah Webb enjoyed trying out different types of physical activity last Friday. PHOTO: Mel Guy

class with the perception they'll suck, they're all open minded and are really engaged with it all.

"With this we've had full participation - everyone is willing to give it a go."

The girls and boys will participate in the cross fit and muay Thai training respectively for three weeks before swapping over.

Grade six student Sarah Webb said the classes were "awesome" and enjoyed trying out something new with her classmates.

"It's really cool just being able to experience it," she said.

"The classes are very different from what we usually do in physical education."

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# Education Feature End of Year 2017

## Galen VEX Team bound for USA

GALEN has established itself as a powerful force in VEX Robotics in the North East, with a team qualifying for the World Championships after the Australian National VEX Robotics Championships held on Saturday, December 2.

Galen's VEX event organisers - Maree Timms, Bernadette Albertson and Brett Webber - said they are beyond excited with all Galen teams winning awards.

"Our Middle Team won an excellence award and excelled in all areas of the competition, including their interview with the judges, engineering log book, both autonomous and controlled driver skills, plus points won in matches," explained Maree Timms.

"This means that the group, led by Lachlan Carboon, have qualified to compete in Louisville, Kentucky (USA) next year during April 25-28."

The Junior Team of Ryan Falconer and Mitchell Hobbs were Tournament Champions, winning the overall competition with their alliance partners from Hillcrest College and the Robotics Boomerangs (a robotics club in Melbourne).

Galen's Senior Team, captained by Madalynn Baumanis, won the Design



WORKING TOGETHER: Members of Galen's VEX Robotics team.

Award, for the best overall Engineering Log Book.  
"This is such a student led competition.

"I hadn't even seen the students log books, I simply gave them the rubric and it was their hard work and

determination that saw them achieve," Ms Timms explained.  
"Having a team make it to the World Championships is

massive - it's like the Olympics for STEM, robotics and coding.

"The team will be proudly representing Galen and ultimately Australia (along with two other Aussie qualifying teams).

"The addition of Brett Webber to the Galen staff has meant the Galen teams have had that extra few coding tips to help them get to the next level."

In addition to Galen students receiving awards, teacher Maree Timms wasn't forgotten about, proudly receiving a "Volunteer of the Year Award" for all of her work leading Galen students, which gave them the opportunity to achieve and establishing VEX as a serious competition in North East Victoria.

The Galen school community congratulates all of the Galen VEX students, with their weeks of preparation (since the start of the year), lunchtimes, weekends, holidays spent building, planning, strategizing and coding clearly paying off.

All at Galen are looking forward to following the group's journey as they buckle down to prepare for the World Championships in Louisville.

## Proud to be Galen

The Principal of Galen Catholic College wishes to congratulate the staff and students on their outstanding achievements in 2017



- Opening of our new Senior School facilities
- Launch of 'New Horizons', our 2017-2019 School Improvement Plan
- New Junior School constructed and ready for the beginning of 2018
- New Library, IT and Wellbeing facilities ready for the beginning of 2018
- New Chapel redesigned and refurbished as a spiritual gathering space
- Record enrolments of 1160 students
- Progressive Student Leadership Teams with local and interstate involvement
- Interstate Indigenous and International student Mission Experience trips to Lake Mungo (NSW), Santa Teresa (NT) and Abafala (East Timor)
- Extensive social justice fundraising for Caritas, Vinnies Winter Sleepout, Winter Appeal fundraising, donations for local and regional homeless, community service at Illoura Aged Care, Timor school redevelopment and Refugee Solidarity Day demonstration
- Student work showcased at prestigious Top Arts 2017 exhibition at NGV
- Community Engagement Workshops with Dr George Otero, parents and staff at Galen
- 2 students selected by University of Melbourne 3-year Girl Power in STEM program
- Mounted 'Future Earth' STEM Expo and 'Digital Harvest' Conference
- Host school for VEX Robotics Australian National Championships
- Galen VEX Robotics team qualifying for the 2018 VEX World Championships in USA

- 3 students placed highly in the State at University of Melbourne Victorian Indonesian Speaking Competition
- Whole school House Swimming Carnival and Athletics Sports
- Boys' Year 8 Tennis Team finished 2nd in State Finals, Melbourne
- A record number of Galen Sport students qualified for State Level Competition
- Language students awarded scholarships for overseas Italian Exchange Program, Italian and Indonesian study camp intensives and cultural immersion days
- Regular Masses and Assemblies celebrating student achievement at all year levels
- 4 Distinctions, 10 Credits & 3 Merit certificates in University of NSW Science Competition
- 7 Distinctions and 14 Credit Awards in the Australian Mathematics Competition
- Record student involvement in musical production 'Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat', Junior production 'Down the Rabbit Hole' and 'Anything Goes' Talent Show
- Active Parents' Association engaging parents and fundraising during the year
- Curriculum and career-focussed Info Nights across all year levels
- Extensive camps, excursions, incursions, guest speakers, classroom learning experiences, information sessions and evenings, exhibitions and opportunities provided by passionate teachers across all subjects areas, year levels and domains

Proud Members of Catholic Regional Education Wangaratta (CREW)



[www.galen.vic.edu.au](http://www.galen.vic.edu.au)

Phone: 03 5721 6322

Email: [enrolments@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@galen.vic.edu.au)

*Galen, my place of opportunity.*





# Chronicle

## It's time to hear the call

WE first highlighted Wangaratta District Specialist School's need for more room in our pages back in 2014.

At that time, portable classrooms were about to be placed over the school's basketball courts, and then-principal Libby Hosking explained the rapid growth of a school that began with nine students and was at that time catering for 113 young people with special needs.

Four years down the track, the school's staff and students have even less room to move, while enrolment numbers have grown further to 162.

While in previous years, WDSS has been keen to plan ahead for future growth, that time is well past.

What the school needs now is action, in the form of State Government funding to support a new, purpose-built campus that helps its dedicated staff meet the growing needs of not just the Rural City of Wangaratta, but the wider North East community.

The students at the specialist school deserve the very best that our society has to offer and facilities in their current state make this difficult to achieve.

Staff at the educational facility need increased space to offer the very best outcomes for students and their families who face ongoing everyday challenges.

Education needs across the state are constant and funds have to be spread to meet the demands.

However, the demand in Wangaratta at this school has been a long voiced topic in several circles including the pages of this paper.

With the government's budget to be considered in coming weeks, it's important that the school, which regularly goes about its business with little fuss, is heard in its growing call for help.

The time is now for the Labor Government to act on this much needed community asset.

## VOXPOP



**HORST LOAHSE,**  
WANGARATTA  
I won't be here on Saturday. It's a good event.



**BETHANY RENNER,**  
WANGARATTA  
I'm not going but I have been before and it is good.



**JOSH BRERETON,**  
MILAWA  
Yes, I haven't been before so it will be interesting to how it is.



**LOU MAHER,**  
OXLEY  
No I'm not going to it. I've seen it advertised in *The Chronicle*.



**SUE MATTHEWS,**  
WANGARATTA  
I am. It's really good. We went to the one at Merriwa Park and listened to the music.

Are you going to the 'Down by the River' event on Saturday and what do you think about the local event?

## LETTERSTOEDITOR

### Well done to Felicity for sharing her story

I EXPERIENCED a myriad of emotions while reading about the plight of local teenager Felicity Ramsay in the *Wangaratta Chronicle* on Friday (March 9).

My initial reaction was overwhelming sadness, as I empathised with Felicity and her battle with Anorexia Nervosa, despite there being a decade between our ages.

But then I read on and appreciated how far young Felicity has obviously progressed in her journey and my sadness lifted.

The journey to recovery takes an almighty strength of character and ideally plenty of loving support from those closest, which I was lucky enough to have and evidently Felicity has also.

Felicity's story appeared in *The Chronicle* not long after I chose to share my personal encounter with eating disorders in a public forum.

I'm not sure if that is coincidental or if she was spurred on by seeing someone else speak out on such a "taboo" topic.

Regardless of why, I would like to congratulate Felicity for being so brave.

I didn't have the courage to speak out when I first suffered from Anorexia at her age.

It took me another 10 years, including numerous recovered years and then the development of a new eating disorder, before I was prepared to go public in a bid to help others and give the community an insight into this debilitating disease.

The aftermath has been all-consuming, but I haven't regretted my decision for one minute.

I felt that sharing my story could have gone either way at a time when I was ill equipped to deflect judgement, but I can happily say I have never felt more supported and connected to the community than I do today.

I thank all of the people who have taken the time to stop me in the street (or supermarket), or have made contact via phone, SMS, Facebook or through the post.

And I hope I have provided some level of support to those who have shared with me their own battles or those of loved ones.

I have no doubt Felicity is already receiving the same level of support from our amazing community.

The one part of Felicity's story that hit a raw nerve with me was ironically a quote from her psychiatrist that "...girls think they're choosing between fat and skinny but they're actually choosing between living and dying".

I know these words come from a highly qualified health professional, but I think this

## WANGARATTA CHRONICLE web poll

Vote now at...

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Is it harder for youth today than it was 25 years ago?



**SHOW AND TELL:** Wangaratta VEX robotics team members including (from left) Jye Spinks, Mitchell Currie-Fraser, Rutvik Chaudhary, Lachlan Carboon, Madalynn Baumanis and Erin Chadban, introduced Cathy McGowan (MHR, Indi) to the world of robotics when she visited Galen Catholic College last week. Ms McGowan (centre) chatted with team members and parents as part of the special visit, where she expressed her enthusiasm and support for their trip to the world championships in the USA. With only a month to go, the team has almost reached its fundraising target, but every dollar will help, and donations can still be made by contacting the school or visit the team on Facebook.

PHOTO: Emma Hillier

is a glaring example of the dichotomous thinking which is the catalyst for the emergence of some eating disorders.

Certainly striving to reach an unnatural level of thinness is an unhealthy obsession, but it is erroneous to say that recovery must result in an overweight, uncomfortable body.

Perhaps we need to stop obsessing about body shape and size altogether and strive for healthy, sustainable, nurturing and fulfilling behaviours that allow our body to evolve to its most healthy, comfortable size, shape and weight.

Alissa Rhodes, Wangaratta

## Leave hands off superannuation

WITH the Self Managed Superannuation funds becoming more popular, the Industry Funds and the large managed funds are pressuring politicians to try to eliminate them.

Now the superannuation nest egg has become so large we find that every federal budget changes are made to the superannuation which affects the average hard working Australians who have saved for retirement.

Why penalise someone who has worked hard and paid taxes on the money they have invested so they do not impose on the social welfare system.

The message politicians are sending to the hard working taxpayer people is to put the minimal amount into superannuation as by the time you retire it will probably be worthless.

There are many other areas politicians could and urgently need to target before destroying the superannuation system we have today.

Why not look at taxing of investment property organisations which are exempt from paying any tax of which there are many.

The days of 'riding on a sheep's back' or exporting raw materials to finance the government coffers is slowly being eroded.

John Walker, North Wangaratta

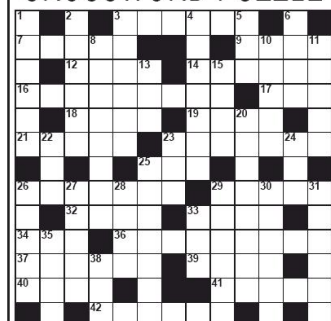
## HAVE YOUR SAY

WE welcome your letters to the Editor. Priority is given to typed/emailed letters under 250 words. Every letter must have your full name, address and a daytime phone contact number supplied for verification purposes. Any letter may be edited for reasons of space, content or legibility.

Email [edit.chronicle@nmedia.com.au](mailto:edit.chronicle@nmedia.com.au)

Post Letters to the Editor,  
37 Rowan St, Wangaratta 3677

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 3 Brawn
- 7 Fruit
- 9 Sour
- 12 Important part
- 14 Heroic woman
- 16 Thrust forward
- 17 Informer (coll)
- 18 Appear to be
- 19 Roster
- 21 Water pitchers
- 23 Coming too late
- 25 Failure (coll)
- 26 Settled cosily
- 29 Short remnant of pencil
- 32 Restore to soundness
- 33 Prophet
- 34 Vegetable
- 36 Profane
- 37 Apprehend
- 39 Bird
- 40 Run with bounding steps
- 41 Draw forth
- 42 Gnawing

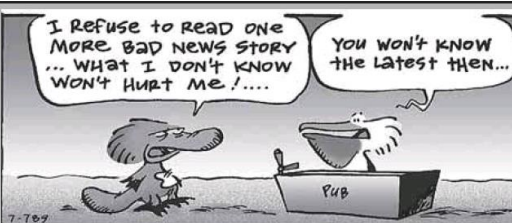
### DOWN

- 6 Latvian capital
- 8 Able to read and write
- 10 Gem weight
- 11 Was weakly affectionate
- 13 Bees' sound
- 15 Worshipped image
- 20 Torn, as clothing
- 22 Tiny
- 23 Rudimentary shoot
- 24 Tree
- 25 Expunged
- 26 Himalayan state
- 27 Keen
- 28 Young males
- 29 Unrevealed fact
- 30 Planet
- 31 Like better
- 35 Ply the needle
- 35 Love god
- 38 Ever (poet)

### SOLUTION



## Beyond the Black Stump





# News from our **SCHOOLS & KINDERS**



**ON STAGE:** Heath French (14) was on hand to help magician Duck Cameron with one of his many tricks.

## Magic performance

### Library holiday program

A PACKED audience enjoyed a performance by magician extraordinaire Duck Cameron at the Wangaratta Library during the school holidays.

All ages were spellbound by the show which provided

a glimpse behind the curtains and a chance for kids to be a part of the action.

It was one of a range of activities offered by the library for the entertainment and enjoyment of school age children.



## Art of dance

THE Australian Ballet partnered with the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre (WPACC) to bring dance experiences to young people living in the local area.

Participants had the chance to co-create a dance based around the theme of resilience, as part of a five day school holiday workshop held at the WPACC in the first week of July.

The 21 students taking part were divided into two streams of junior and senior students, before taking to the stage to perform their dances for friends and family on the last day of the program.

**ON POINT:** Taking part in the ballet workshop during the holidays were (from left) Makayla Nesbitt, Abbey Collins and (back) Chloe Collins, (middle) Pippa Galbraith and (from back) Sophie Leask, April Shimura and Danielle Tyers.



**CHILLING OUT:** Ollie Reynolds, Chad Donald, Thomas Thwaites and Christian Pasquali have some fun before tackling the course.

## Cross country event

### Cathedral College

THE year four, five and six students were fortunate to have a crisp, yet perfect sunny day for the Zone Cross Country event held last term.

Students including Ollie Reynolds, Chad Donald, Thomas Thwaites and Christian Pasquali enjoyed some down time before their race.



## Play time for all

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION:** Principal Chris Harvison, with Geoff Wright from the King Valley Men's Shed, admires the school's new mud kitchen.

### Wangaratta District Specialist School

THE school understands and recognises the importance of play for students of all ages.

The allied health team have been looking at new ways to provide opportunities to

experience pretend play. They approached the King Valley Men's Shed for assistance in the project who were quick to jump on board, creating an amazing mud kitchen from pallets and an old sink. The junior students

have been loving playing 'kitchens', 'cafes' and coming up with many other uses for the mud kitchen.

The school community thanks the King Valley Men's Shed for their amazing work.



**TEAMWORK:** Wangaratta High School student Zoe Baguley (12) worked with Henry Ross (10) at the robotics and coding workshop.

## Robotics holiday program

### Having fun with STEM

A FULL house enjoyed the latest Robotics and Coding Holiday Program run at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre during the school holidays for grade five and six level students.

Supported by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee, the

popular event was held over two days and gave participants an introduction to VEX IQ robotics and coding.

Senior students were also on hand to mentor younger participants, including members of the Galen Catholic College VEX robotics team and their friends.

## TEST YOUR SCIENCE SMARTS

**1** The Arctic tern has the longest annual migration of any bird. How long is it? Is it a) 2200 kilometres, b) 7100 kilometres, c) 22,000 kilometres or d) 71,000 kilometres?

**2** What is the most common metal ion in seawater?

**3** The Atlas Mountains are located in which continent?

**4** Olfaction is another name for which sense?

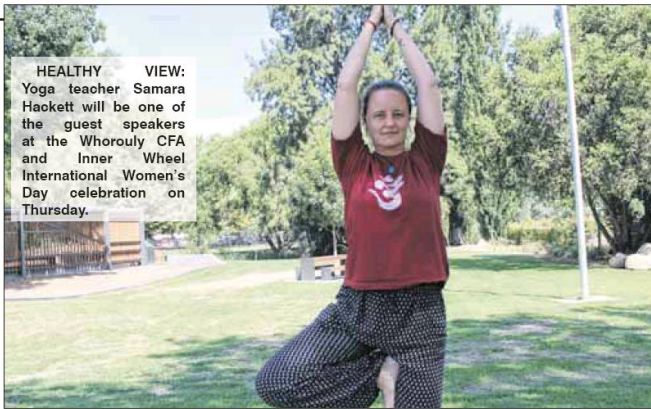
**5** Where would you see the Taurids, Orionids and Geminids?



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QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. d) The Arctic tern flies about 71,000 kilometres from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back every year. 2. Sodium ions are the most common metal ion in seawater. 3. The Atlas Mountains are found in north western Africa. 4. Olfaction is another name for the sense of smell. 5. You would see the Taurids, Geminids and Orionids in the night sky - they're meteor showers.





**HEALTHY VIEW:**  
Yoga teacher Samara Hackett will be one of the guest speakers at the Whorouly CFA and Inner Wheel International Women's Day celebration on Thursday.

## Women's day for all at Whorouly

THE Whorouly branches of the CWA and Inner Wheel have combined their forces to present an inaugural International Women's Day celebration on Thursday, March 21 from 6.30pm.

The night will feature a community dinner at Remel 185, Whorouly Road, Whorouly, with guest speakers Samara Hackett (yoga teacher and ESL teacher) who will speak about International Women's Day and its significance today, and Mandy Hogan (physiotherapist and mind-

fulness educator) whose topic is 'Women - it's time to live a happier life'.

Galen College VEX program students will also make a robotics presentation.

There will also be raffles and merchandise with any profits made going to local causes.

Whorouly CWA president Jeanette Allen said the groups hoped to get funding in the future to stage a more comprehensive celebration.

"The overriding theme this year is think equally, build smart, innovate for change and

the message 'balance for better, a call for action demanding gender balance across the world'.

"We all have to do it better; women and men."

Everyone is welcome to the event, all ages and both genders. Cost is \$20 per head which includes the meal, water, and tea and coffee, BYO other drinks. Seating by 6.30pm.

For catering purposes bookings are required, including information on any dietary requirements, phone Glenys on 0427 271 207.

## A festival for all the family

DON'T miss the inaugural family friendly creative event, The Source, at Benalla on Saturday.

Set in the Benalla Botanical Gardens, the event will host a makers market with incredible regional craft and produce, workshops and demonstrations, and music all day with the world renowned singers and musicians as well as a host of rising young talent including many from Wangaratta.

There will be a large ninja warrior course for little and big kids to test their skills on,

throughout the day with nerf warfare and learning how to make ice cream.

There will be amazing food available with catering by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, a variety of food trucks and King Valley barbecue.

The Source Benalla in conjunction with the Benalla Art Gallery will be conducting two kids' art workshops covering a wide range of things such as fermenting, and smoking and curing meats.

There will also be a

fairly trail to lead kids (and the believers) around the Botanical Gardens and a photo booth to make memories worth keeping.

The Source is also in partnership with EdSpace, an education and training centre in Benalla.

The Source is on Saturday, March 23 with gates opening at 10am and closing by 8pm. Tickets are inclusive of all activities, demonstrations and workshops.

Entry is free for children under 12; 13/17 years are \$5, and adult tickets are \$25.



LET US ENTERTAIN YOU: Shevanti Perera and Halle Newton from Wangaratta High School tune up to perform at The Source in Benalla on Saturday. PHOTO: Mel Guy

## Start fresh with the Samsung Galaxy A8

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QUALITY TIME TOGETHER: Designing their own robot were (from left) Kristi Hardman (11), Lili Ashby (11), Anniek Harney (11) and Adele Webber.

# World of fun at robotics

RETURNING to school and spending time with teachers might not sound like the most fun way to spend school holidays.

But it in fact proved to be an enthralling experience for about 30 students who attended a robotics holiday program at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre last week.

Although originally the program could not accommodate as many students, there was such a



BY FREYJA POSTLETHWAITE  
fpostlethwaite@nmedia.com.au

high demand that it was opened up to allow more to join in the fun.

Activities including coding, designing video games, creating robots, solving tangrams and programming robots were on the agenda for the grade five and six students.

Galen VEX team members were on hand to step the younger students through activities and share their passion for digital technology.

At just 11 years old, Adele Webber enjoyed spending time with her friends at the program.

"The activities are really good - we're building the bottom part of the robot," Adele said.

"My dad works with VEX and he got me a robot for my birthday

so I'm really interested in learning about this."

Galen science teacher and VEX team coach, Maree Timms, said the students were thrilled to be able to expand their knowledge base in such a fun atmosphere.

"They have been constantly engaged with the activities," she said.

"The kids have it completely under control, we barely have to step in."

## Bowen Therapy

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- Neck pain? Back pain?
- Sporting injuries?
- Hormonal conditions?
- Digestive problems?

Bowen therapy is a gentle therapy that can provide fast and long lasting results.

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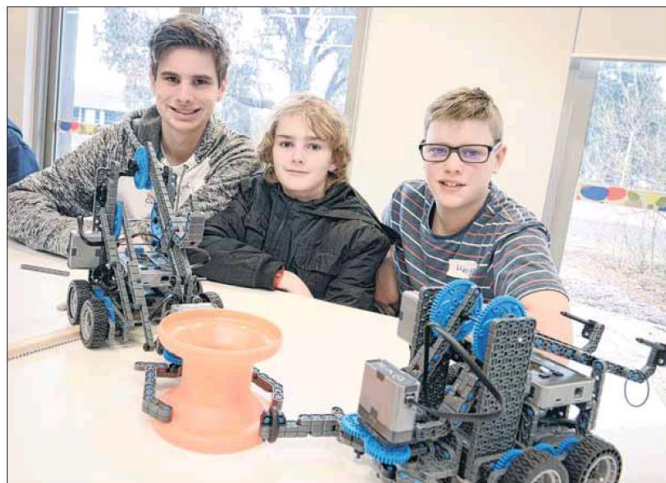
\*health fund rebates may apply



CREATIVE: Reuben Smith (11) tests out a tangram program on an iPad.



FUN: Clay Munro (10) enjoyed creating his own coding on the computer.



MAKING ROBOTS: Galen VEX team members Lachie Carboon (left) and Heath French (right) helped James Shaw (11) create a robot.  
PHOTOS: Mel Guy



IN CONTROL: Kaylee Wane (10) tested her skills in controlling a spherical robot.



## Get with robotics school holiday program next week

YOUNG people interested in learning about robotics and exploring technology in a hands-on way are invited to take part in a two-day robotics and coding program being run over the school holidays.

The special event is being held at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre in Tone Road on January 24 and 25 and is specifically designed for students in grades five and six.

Presented by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee



BY ANITA  
McPHERSON  
amcpherson@  
nmedia.com.au

(DTAC), a partnership which includes local schools and tertiary institutions, participants will be involved in designing and building robots along with learning the digital skills to make them move.

Program coordinator Anne Geddis from Charles Sturt University said the program was an opportunity for students to work as a team and collaborate with members of the Galen Catholic College robotics team who will be competing in the World VEX Robotic Championships in the USA in April.

She said students need no particular skills or experience – just an interest in the field.

"We want students to enjoy learning through STEM activities, to inspire them to learn more and equip the community for the future," she said.

"Activities are for students, education staff and the community – we're aiming to make Wangaratta an example of excellence in STEM."

Students will not only learn to build and drive the robots – they will also learn about build-

ing websites, creating apps and games, and explore technology in a collaborative and social environment.

The two day session will run from 9.30am until 2.30pm each day and costs \$60 per participant (with water bottles and fruit supplied – byo lunch) and profits raised will go to the program.

Registration can be made by visiting <https://wrcroboticsholidayprogram.eventbrite.com.au>.

## Bat talk, walk change

THE Greta Valley Landcare 'bat talk and dusk walk' tonight will now be held at the Moyhu Soldiers Memorial Hall, 24 Bartley Street at 6pm.

The venue has been changed due to the forecast high temperatures.

RSVP to Sally on 0437 136 162.

## Switch or risk losing phone in NBN rollout

■ From page 1

"Across Australia, the current take-up rate across all areas at the end of the 18 month migration window is more than 74 per cent, which is on target with our corporate plan," she said.

"This is because not every home will require an NBN powered plan – some may be holiday homes, some consumers will choose mobile-only, and there will be other fibre network providers in some areas."

The organisation is urging people with special equipment, including EFTPOS terminals, medical and security alarms which operate using a landline phone connection, to check with their preferred service provider about their compatibility and seek assistance in moving these services across to the NBN broadband access network.

For more information visit [www.nbn.com.au](http://www.nbn.com.au).

## Rural roads suffering six weeks after storm



ROAD DAMAGE: Roads in the Bowmans Forest and Murrumbidgee region are still suffering from damage six weeks after storms struck in December.

SIX weeks after storms ravaged the North East some residents at Bowmans Forest feel they have been overlooked for repairs by the rural city.

Chris Griffiths told the *Chronicle* that he contacted council on December 6 to report serious damage to Witherow's Lane and Lees-Morrison Road but apart from receiving an automated response to confirm his call had been made there had been no word since from council.

He again contacted council on January 14 with similar results.

A bridge over Burgoose Creek in the same area had been cleared and cleaned up but by Thursday the roads were still untouched.

"We understand there was a lot of damage caused by the storms but council should at least contact people and let them know what's happening," Mr Griffiths said.

"I know of several people from here who have had the same experience."

"We do feel because we are on the edge of the shire we are forgotten or overlooked."

Mr Griffiths said he had even sought legal advice to see if it was possible to secede from the shire to form a Murrumbidgee-Bowmans Forest province but learned it would have been too expensive.



BY SHANE  
DOUTHIE  
sdouthie@  
nmedia.com.au

When contacted by the *Chronicle* Ken Parker, council manager field services, said council staff had been flat out doing a clean-up and repair following three severe events during December including flooding, fire and storm.

"We expect contact will be made with the customer this week but it should have happened earlier," Mr Parker said.

"Whether that could have got repair teams to the area any quicker is doubtful."

"Our focus has been to get roads open then to return later to clear and repair them where required."

"There are also procedures we have to follow to qualify for State Government funding to pay for the repairs."

Mr Parker also said that there were generally fewer council staff available over the Christmas period due to annual leave although some staff had returned to work early due to the severity of the situation.

He said there may still be areas affected by the storm and fire damage council had not been to yet and encouraged anyone concerned to contact council.

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#### Jumanji (PG)

Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm, 8.00pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm, 8.00pm
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.15pm, 8.00pm
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	12.30pm, 8.00pm
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.45pm, 8.00pm
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm, 8.00pm



#### Coco (PG)

Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.15am
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.15am
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.15am

#### Paddington 2 (G)

Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30pm

#### The Greatest Showman (PG)

Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm, 5.45pm
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	1.00pm, 5.45pm
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5.15pm
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**SAY CHEESE:**  
This year members of the Brown family including Ceridwen

and Gareth Brown (pictured) have plenty to smile about, as the founders of the Milawa Cheese Company celebrate their 30th anniversary. Ceridwen and Gareth grew up in the well-known local business established by their parents David and Anne Brown in 1988, which helped put Milawa on the map as a gourmet food destination, and Ceridwen remembers the cheese business was always the topic of the discussion around the family dinner table. From helping out after school to becoming the chief executive officer, Ceridwen shares her memories and some fascinating insight into the cheese making business in the latest edition of North East Living Magazine. It is available now from Edgars Books and News in Murphy Street and from Yarrunga News and Post in Vincent Road, along with the Wangaratta Chronicle office in Rowan Street, for \$5.50.

PHOTO: Marc Bongers



**FORCE IS STRONG:** Matilda Pitman, dressed as Princess Leia, and Beren Urrutia in costume as Poe Dameron, showed their love for Star Wars at Geek Con on Saturday.  
PHOTO: Kylie Wilson

## Geeks out in force

PLANNING is already under way for next year's Geek Con at the Wangaratta Library, after a third successful event last Saturday.

An estimated 500 people flowed through the doors of the library during the afternoon, jumping at the chance to dress as their favourite pop culture characters in cosplay, and browse various stalls and attractions.



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nemedi.com.au

There was also a chance to be involved in gaming, try virtual reality technology, and see local VEX robotics experts in action.

Another drawcard was the author panel featuring writers

Lili Wilkinson and Melissa Keil talking about their work in young adult fiction.

The pair were highly engaging, as they offered tips for young writers to get started and develop their craft, and talked about their own creative processes.

Jasen Smith from the Wangaratta Library said there was no doubt Geek Con, run in conjunction with Youth Week,

would continue in 2019.

"This is one of our most well-received programs, so we have to get straight onto it for next year," he said.

"The VEX robotics area was a hive of activity during the whole program, and the virtual reality was very well-received.

"We're hoping to build on that for next year, and offer a few surprises as well."

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### Edition 4: **HIDDEN MANNA: Heart Transplant**

"...Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts..." (Hebrews 3:15)

April 2018

We are looking at something very interesting this month - **Heart Transplant**. As you might be aware, medical science have advanced to this level where doctors can take away a diseased heart and replace it with a good one-of course at the expense of the life of a willing donor. Since the first successful surgery in 1967, many countries of the world have now accepted heart transplant as a medical intervention to treat diseased hearts that will not respond to other medical treatments.

As the intervention is becoming more widely acceptable, there is an observation however about those who have received transplants-be it heart, lungs or liver. Some have reported changes in their personalities that is/are like the donor. Some of them claimed to have received more than just a working organ. These reports are being increasingly supported by studies of a phenomenon known as "cellular memory". This is a theory that cells within an organ carry the memories and desires of the person to whom it belonged. While this is still very much on the fringes of science, time will tell if cellular memory hypothesis is or not more than just a wild theory. It is from this physical illustrations I draw spiritual lessons for the discussion this month on **Spiritual Heart Transplant**.

You might be quick to ask, are there spiritually diseased hearts? The answer is Yes. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us "**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately**

**wicked: who can know it?**

The heart of man-all kinds of men, regardless of race, social status, religious inclinations and political affiliations-is wicked. The events of life will attest to the wickedness in the hearts of men. Just look around you; in the workplaces, among family members, on the streets, in the churches, among public office holders. You will understand the heart of man-including



yours-is wicked. This is the reason for the need for a spiritual heart transplant. Another part of the scripture in Ezekiel 36:26 describes the heart of man as hard as stone. "**.....and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh ...**"

The heart of man is spiritually cold, dead, hard and impenitent to all divine pleadings. All these are because of the fall of man. The fall of man was utter and entire. Some things when they have become

dilapidated may be repaired; but the old heart of mankind is so thoroughly decayed that it must be removed, and a new heart must be transplanted. Religion cannot do this. Being brought up in a cultured society will not do, self-discipline will fail before this melancholic heart that has no sense of feelings to spiritual overtures. Only God can do this kind of spiritual surgery. You know what;

God has promised to do it and all you need is to ask Him. In Ezekiel 36:26 it reads "**A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh**".

The Lord wants to give you a brand new heart. Did I hear you ask where the new heart is coming from? Yes, God creates and recreates it. Have you ever asked yourself how many grain of seed

was planted for the number of grains a farmer harvests? God created them all, amazing!

As you take an inventory of your life, don't you think you need a new heart so you can think, behave, live and plan in a new and godly way? Your thoughts become new and you become a new man indeed. He can do it. When? Now! Really? Yes! All you need do is sincerity with God. Hypocrisy will not help this time.

You will need to open to Him that sick, decayed and dirty heart of yours by telling him the evils within that heart and the evils that heart has led you to. Plead with Him to forgive you and create a new heart within you as He has promised. You will then be like Him having received a new heart from Him. Thank Him for doing that for you right now. Read His Word in the Bible and fellowship with brethren of like faith. We will meet again if Jesus delays His coming Shalom!

If this edition has been of help to you, we will like to hear from you. Your spiritual welfare is our primary concern. For more information please write to us. DCLM, Wangaratta; Box 94, Wangaratta 3677. Our e mail address: wangdclm@outlook.com or come along to fellowship with us at the Wangaratta Library on Thursdays @ 6pm for Bible Study or on Sunday @ 10am for Worship Service. "**If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them**"



## ■ New co-ordinator keen to connect with the community

# Plenty of scope in digital hub

WANGARATTA Digital Hub's new coordinator is excited by the potential of the facility to connect local residents with advancing technology, and create a digital skills bank for the community.

Amanda Aldous started in the role this month and is already itching to see where local residents might lead the hub (located to the left of the Wangaratta Library entrance, in the former High Country Library Corporation headquarters).

The facility is being funded by \$300,000 provided over three years through Regional Development Victoria and the Ovens and Murray Regional Partnership.

A steering group overseeing the digital hub has representation from North East Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network, Rural City of Wangaratta, GOTAFE, Regional Development Victoria, Charles Sturt University, Startup Shakeup, and the Digital Technology Advisory Committee.

Ms Aldous, an Oxley resident and former Wangaratta High School teacher, has spent the past six years working in community and youth development, and has a strong interest in technology.

"I taught multi-media, and have always been an early adopter of technology, so I see this role as the culmination of all that background - education, community development, and technology," she said.



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

"I feel this facility is much-needed; we are in a regional area, so we need people to have access to technology, and the skills to use it.

"One of the important things to reinforce is that this is early stages; there is scope to develop programs specific to the community's needs, and we are talking to people about what they may be.

"There are a lot of people in the community who are not comfortable about setting up an iPad or their email, and library staff have been filling that gap in assisting them, so we are looking to work together with them to help people in that area.

"Some of the role will be to connect with other facilities in Wangaratta (such as neighbourhood houses, The Centre, and the local co-working space), to scan and see how we can work together and value add.

"This will be a welcoming space for everyone, from early adopters to beginners; it's not a high level tech centre, it's a community facility."

Ms Aldous said workshops and skill development sessions would be held at the



EXCITED: New Wangaratta Digital Hub coordinator Amanda Aldous is looking forward to helping tailor the facility to the community's needs.  
PHOTO: Mel Guy

hub as the need arose.

"We can present possibilities and opportunities to the community, but it really is a two way street - we also want to find people in the community who have skills they can share, and build up a digital skills bank," she said.

Anne Shaw, convenor of the digital hub steering group, said it was hoped there would be "lots of cross-fertilisation of ideas".

"We want to attract a good cross-section of people, and lots of different ideas and skills," she said.

Ms Aldous agreed: "We welcome ideas, and we'd love people to drop in and tell us about them, because it's important they see the space to know the potential it has."

The digital hub opens in its regular hours from tomorrow, and will continue to be open from 12 noon to 5pm on Tuesdays, 12 noon to 8pm on Wednesdays (coordinating with later library opening hours), and 12

noon to 5pm on Thursdays. "Other activities will operate around that, and we will have a booking system for the space," Ms Shaw said.

Among additional events planned are a July celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing, and the annual Digital Innovation Festival in early September.

"People can really come together in spaces like this, and amazing things come from people working together," Ms Aldous said.

## Roadworks today in the King Valley

VICROADS will today start works to install audio tactile line-marking on Wangaratta-Whitfield Road between Oxley and Whitfield.

Mobile works plants will operate in the area from 7am until 5pm daily until Wednesday, weather depending.

Traffic management will be in place, with possible delays of five to 10 minutes.

## Sleepout to help raise funds for St Vinnies

GOTAFE CEO Travis Heeney is calling on local support to join the fight against homelessness in the region.

Mr Heeney will sleep without shelter as part of the 2019 Vinnies CEO Sleepout on June 20 - hoping to lift awareness, and help fundraise towards the \$1.1 million target to assist St Vincent De Paul Society with projects across Victoria.

He said he was alarmed to hear more than 79 people in the region were homeless and more than 2700 people were living in poverty in the Wangaratta region.

Mr Heeney is calling on industry, business, community organisations and individuals to help St Vinnies by supporting his fundraising - visit <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/travisheeney/melbourne>

## Riparian Landcare grants available

NORTH East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) is seeking expressions of interest from community groups for \$44,000 in Riparian Landcare Grants to assist improve the health of waterways and wetlands.

The grants are funded through the Regional Riparian Action Plan, which aims to support eligible community groups to improve waterway and wetland condition.

NECMA distributes funding in the hope community groups will improve stock management along waterways, increase condition, structure and diversity of native riparian vegetation and reduce impact of invasive pest plants.

Applications can be made on the NECMA website at [necma.vic.gov.au](http://necma.vic.gov.au) and must be submitted by May 30.

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# Galen robotics teams dominate at Canberra

GALEN Catholic College's VEX robotics teams continued on their winning way, snaring seven of 10 awards in a competition held in Canberra over the weekend.

Invited to the event hosted by the Design and Technology Teachers Association ACT (DATTA ACT), Galen brought fresh ideas to help inspire Canberra's new teams.

The school's new junior VEX IQ teams performed extremely well in their first competition.

In addition to the junior team,

the Galen VEX IQ team of Jorja O'Connor, Paris McLaurin, Chaira Lestino and James Parker finished third in the overall rankings, but stepped it up in the finals to be named tournament champions and take out the excellence award, the latter for their robot skills, design, judges' interview, and engineering log book.

Galen's second VEX IQ team of Heath French and Andre Roleff finished seventh.

While they missed out on the finals, they proudly took away the

Spirit Award, given by the judges to the most enthusiastic, cooperative and spirited team.

Galen VEX EDR team of Lachlan Carboon and Ben Hester (Ryan Falconer couldn't make the trip) finished top of the leader board, winning 12 of their 13 matches.

They had the most autonomous programming points on the day, doubling nearly all other teams, to be named tournament champions and win the excellence award.

The NEW Galen VEX EDR team of Hunter Richardson, Ashly

Carboon, Rose Dennehy and Harsh Chaudhary, ranked third overall and played in the final alongside Lachlan's team to also win tournament champions, and take out the design award due to the unique design build of their robot.

The Galen VEX team, comprising Damian French and Mitchell Currie Fraser (Michelle Hobbs and Jye Spinks couldn't make the trip) had a few robot issues but expect to be a force at the next competition at Galen on October 20.

A FEW MOMENTS WITH YOUR LOCAL NATUROPATH.



INTERVIEW WITH BELINDA MCPHERSON (NATUROPATH)

*Belinda grew up in Wangaratta and Myrtleford and now resides in Whorouly where community and wellbeing are very much a part of her every day life. Rural living and her passion for Naturopathy has allowed Belinda and her family to live life in moderation striving for health through a balance of diet and lifestyle. Belinda enjoys the outdoors with her family on the farm and motorbike racing with her children.*

## Favorite thing about Naturopathy?

Watching people become well right before my eyes, using simple and easy to implement strategies that are often forgotten. I also love keeping it real, teaching people how to live life well without only eating kale, mung beans and coconut water.

## What got you interested in naturopathy?

I felt the benefits for myself from being a client, then an opportunity came up for me to study the Bachelor of Health Science in Melbourne. So in true Belinda style I jumped to it and worried about the consequences later!

## What's in your herb garden at them moment?

Parsley, parsley and some more parsley that has self-sown throughout the garden and even into the paddocks (Special thankyou to the 4 year old for playing swords with the parsley heads and towing them around the paddocks as trailers! The husband isn't happy! Hahaha) sage, thyme, rosemary, oregano, Lavendula, Echinacea, Yarrow, Chamomile, Peppermint, Mint,

## What is your go to snack?

Bliss balls, mixed nuts, dark chocolate and carrot sticks and hummus

## What is on herb you cant live without?

In home cooking I would say parsley or garlic. In our dispensary I would say Withania (great for stress, rebuilding energy, sleep, brain function and stamina and endurance)

Belinda is in clinic Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you would like to book an appointment with Belinda call reception on 57 229 216.



53a Reid St  
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**5722 9216**

## Public hearing coming to Indi

LOCAL leaders will speak at a public hearing to be held in the North East by the Joint Select Committee for Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Monday.

Cathy McGowan (MHR, Indi), who is a member of the committee, is encouraging people to attend the hearing at TAFEspace Wodonga (158 Lawrence St) from 12.30pm.

"It is important the committee hears a range of perspectives before making recommendations about constitutional recognition," Ms McGowan said, thanking all those who have made a submission to the inquiry.

"I encourage constituents to continue to contact my office with their views."

The interim report can be read at <https://bit.ly/2AI68hQ>; and Cathy's speech on the report is at: <https://bit.ly/2nNdW2G>.

## October sale to aid library

THE Friends of Wangaratta Library are holding a book and dvd sale, with everything \$2, on Saturday, October 6 from 9.30am to 12noon at the Wangaratta Library.

There will be a large range of second-hand adult fiction, non-fiction and children's books to choose from with all money raised assisting the library in providing programming and equipment.



PACKED AND READY: Members of St Patrick's Primary School social justice team including (back, from left) Neve Harris and Georgia Winslade with (front, from left) Hollie Semmens and Bella Pasquali helped prepare donations.

## School offers essential donation

By ANITA MCPHERSON

FAMILIES in rural New South Wales dealing with the drought will soon receive a thoughtful gift courtesy of their friends south of the border at St Patrick's Primary School.

Teacher Trish Shaw is heading up to Armidale on the weekend and she'll be delivering a boot load of toiletries in the form of 'care packages' to the local CWA to distribute to those who need it.

Ms Shaw said she was inspired to

begin the campaign after seeing an interview on television involving CWA members who said that often these kinds of essential items are not high on the list to buy due to the lack of money.

She said students and their families were happy to get on board and after posting a call out on Facebook, even a parent involved with the school eight years ago got in touch with a very generous donation.

"The response has been unbelievable - we were overwhelmed," she said.

"I think people want to do something tangible, rather than just give money and they are pleased to know that with the help of the CWA it all goes to the farmers and their families."

It appears there is not going to be much room left in the car when Ms Shaw and her husband take off on their trip to New South Wales.

She said the campaign had also opened up lots of conversations with the children about drought, what it means for a community and how it affects everyone.

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**out & about**

**YOUNG** students with a thirst for knowledge and an interest in technology took part in the Robotics and Coding Holiday Program held at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre on July 2 and 3.

PHOTOS: Mel Guy



■ Damien French (centre) mentors Mossy Alker-Jones (11) and Austin Siede-Davan (11).



■ Isaac Humby (11) unravels the code.



■ Constructive play with Bethany Dissgna (11).



■ James Parker is part of the Galen VEX Australian championship team, which is 102 in the world.



■ Edward Robertson (10) and Heath French (14) interpret the directions.



■ Down to business were Zoe Baguley (12) and Henry Ross (10).



■ Under construction with James Parker (14), Lucas Ingleton (11) and Alasdair Brett (10).



■ Patrick Dissgna (12) and Eric Pickard (10) take a break.



■ Jack DuBourg (12) and Kade Micheli (12) worked together.



■ Planning ahead were Katey Ormond (12), Mialeigh Stewart (11) and Brodie Reid (14).

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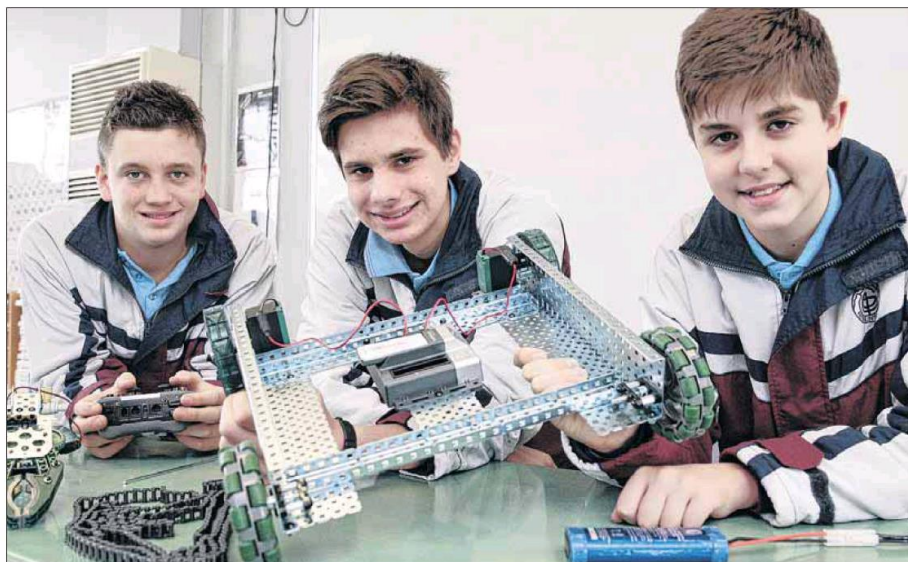
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(photo credit: Jayson Pratt)



# Science links to the land



SKILLS ON SHOW: Galen Catholic College students Ben Hester, Lachie Carboon and Mitchell Hobbs will be among those demonstrating their VEX robotics skills at next week's STEM Expo in Wangaratta. PHOTO: Emma Hillier

## STEM Expo will attract schools from the region

SCHOOLS from throughout the region are gearing up for next week's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Expo at Wangaratta's Galen College.

Organised to coincide with National Science Week, the theme of this year's expo is Future Earth, with the focus on technology and sustainability.

The 2017 expo is being delivered by Wangaratta's Digital Technologies Advisory Committee, a partnership between Charles Sturt University, GOTAFE, NE Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network, community members and local schools.

It will again be held in Galen's stadium on Wednesday, August 16 from 12 noon to 3pm for schools, and for all ages in the wider community between 4pm and 6pm.

Wangaratta DTAC member Maree Timms said those attending the expo could expect lots of interactive, hands-on activities.

"It's a chance to meet great local people who are working with scientists to look after our community, chat to them, and see how you can help through groups like Wangaratta Urban Landcare and the Wangaratta Sustainability Network," she said.

"See how solar panels work with Charles Sturt University alumni Greg Paynter, or take a look at agricultural drones and see how they can help farmers save money and become more efficient with infra-red imaging."

Sydney-based augmented reality company Auggd will make 3D models pop up from flat housing plans, and expo-goers can also go on a virtual



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

trip around the world, to the top of Mount Everest or the bottom of the ocean, using DTAC's Google Expeditions kit.

The popular Nao the robot will be back, and will display his dancing skills, while Galen's year eight robotics class will show everyone their coding skills, and there will be a chance to try a game of robot soccer using Spheros.

Galen and Borinya VEX Robotics teams will demonstrate their skills as they practise for the National VEX Robotics Championships to be held in Wangaratta on December 2, where the Galen team will be doing its best to hold onto its tournament champion title.

Two young Galen students who have their own 'maker spaces' in their sheds will also bring along some of the gizmos and gadgets they have created at home, ranging from an R2D2 model made from a garbage bin to a hydraulic digger made from recycled materials.

Those interested in exploring careers in the defence forces can speak to Flight Sergeant Brad Edwardes from the Australian Air Force and Sergeant Kirrily Kelson from the Australian Army.

Spark Engineers will again set a challenge for those at the expo, and GOTAFE will be on hand to provide lots of information about its courses.

With prizes on offer during the day, there will be plenty to entertain and inform those attending the expo.

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It's a chance to meet great local people who are working with scientists to look after our community, chat to them, and see how you can help through groups like Wangaratta Urban Landcare and the Wangaratta Sustainability Network.

- Maree Timms



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Page 3

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## SCIENCEWORKS

WHILE other kids were cooling off in the pool during the school holidays, Damien French, Jack Campbell, Alex Murray, Henry Findlay and Jack Dobson, were among an enthusiastic young team learning how to code and drive robots during a holiday program held at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre this week, hosted by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee.  
PHOTO: Mel Guy



# FATIGUE BLAMED

THE Queensland truck driver who crashed his b-double into the Ovens River in December 2017, spilling two trailers of groceries into the water was fined \$1000 when he faced Wangaratta Magistrates' Court on Monday.

The truck driver faced court for charges relating to driving while impaired

## Driver fined \$1000 over 2017 Ovens River grocery spill

by fatigue, failure to have proper control, contravene maximum work hours and contravene minimum rest requirement.

The incident led to his b-double truck veering off the right-hand side of the Hume Freeway in the Oxley Flats

area, mounting the concrete safety barriers and falling into the Ovens River.

The driver pulled off a miraculous underwater escape following the truck's nosedive into the river.

Once the submerged truck was removed from the river,

an incident management team led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning closed the river between Frank Garth Reserve and the Hume Freeway Bridge and then began the clean-up process.

The incident left an esti-

mated 40 tonnes of grocery products and diesel from the truck polluting the river, requiring a community effort to clean the water over the weeks that followed.

Police prosecutor Leading Senior Constable Heath Dosser told the court police

were contacted when the truck was reportedly driving erratically near Chiltern along the Hume Freeway, switching back and forth in the right and left lanes.

"He has been a truck driver for 22 years and has no prior driving offences," LSC Dosser said.

Continued page 2

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# Mind battle of the robots



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

EXCITEMENT is building for next week's VEX Robotics National Championships in Wangaratta.

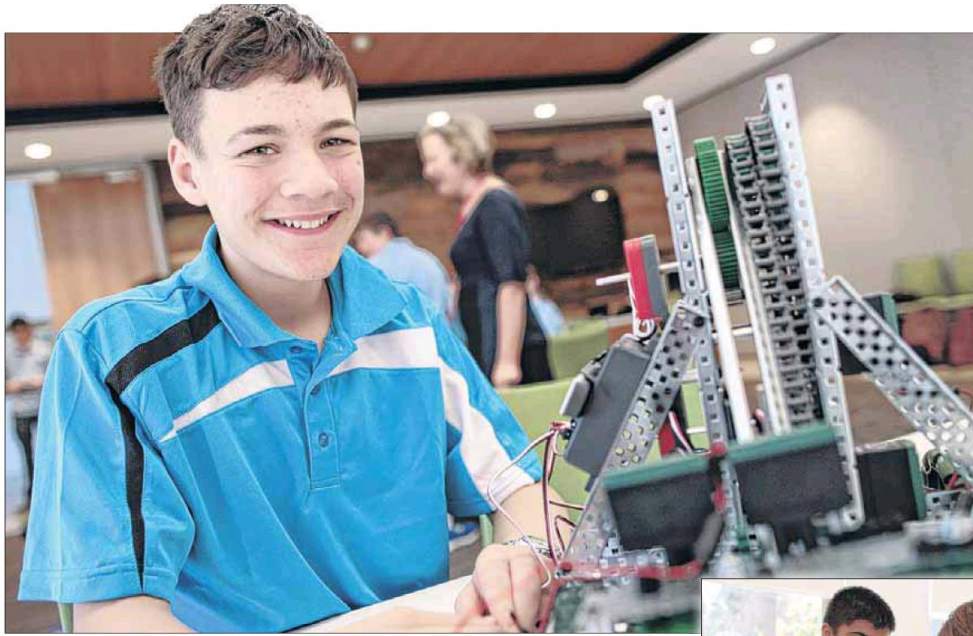
Local students who are taking part in the December 3 event, to be held at Galen College, last week attended a science day at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre, where they had the chance to workshop their ideas for the championships.

Galen science teacher Maree Timms said Wodonga Middle Years College, Galen College and Borinya students would compete in the championships, which are to be held in Wangaratta as a spin-off from this year's successful Wangaratta Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Expo.

They will pit their skills against entrants from Melbourne, Canberra and Queensland.

In the VEX competitions, teams of students are tasked with designing and building robots to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge.

Classroom STEM concepts



are put to the test on the playing field, as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications, and more.

Ms Timms said last Thursday's sessions at the study centre gave the local teams a chance to gather and brainstorm ideas, and work through problems with their robots.

"They are all trying to work together and help each other," she said.

"The judges at the championships will be looking at how entrants are helping other teams, so the ability to problem-solve could help them win."

The championships will be held at Galen on Saturday,

December 3, with teams battling it out for the opportunity to represent Australia at the 2017 World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky.

Locals are invited to come along to watch the action.

For more information about VEX Robotics, visit <http://www.vexrobotics.com/vexedr/competition>.

**COMING TOGETHER:** Borinya's Nicholas Metcraft was among the students who took part in a science day at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre, ahead of next week's VEX Robotics Competition to be held at Galen College.

**WORKSHOPPING:** Galen College students Rutvik Chadhary and Tristan Roleff work on their VEX Robotics Competition entry during a session at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre last week.

**PHOTOS:** Luke Plummer



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## New energy head

COMPETITION law expert Sitesh Bhojani has been appointed to the board of the Essential Services Commission.

Mr Bhojani will help the commission set and enforce billing and marketing practices so that Victorians get fairer contract terms.

## Join the Digital Innovation Festival

WANGARATTA will host a number of events as part of the Digital Innovation Festival (running from August 23 to September 7).

On Tuesday, September 3, the Wangaratta Digital Hub will host a presentation by Sally Rodgers from Digital Gold, with the theme 'What is digital inclusion, and where are the gaps?'. This session will be followed by a facilitated mapping workshop with Susan Benedyka, aimed at any stakeholder with an interest in digital technology in a community, education, industry or business context.

The following day, Wednesday, September 4, the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre will host the Big Day In, an IT careers conference, between 10am and 1.30pm, while later in the day, the Wangaratta Digital Hub will host a 'come and try' VEX robotics session between 2pm and 7pm, for young people up to year eight.

The week-long festival will wind down with a regional VEX robotics competition at Galen College from 8am to 4pm on Saturday, September 7.



FOR THE COMMUNITY: Volunteer firefighters Ben Cryer (left) and John Seymour (right) have encouraged others living within the Wangaratta area to step up as a CFA volunteer. PHOTO: Mel Guy

# CFA calls for more local volunteers

By MITCHELL GASTIN

WANGARATTA Fire Brigade has encouraged community-minded men and women who believe they have what it takes to protect their local community as a volunteer firefighter to attend a free information session on September 12.

The information session will be conducted by more experienced members, introducing people to the recruitment and selection process, training requirement and what it's like to be a volunteer firefighter.

Community safety officer Lauren McCully of Wangaratta Brigade said they are looking for people over 18 years old who would like to give back to their community.

"The training process is extensive so you will become very well trained," Ms McCully said.

"You get so much out of it, we're all a little family... there are lots of positive social aspects that come with it."

"For people who might live out of town, there are also a number of brigades

around the rural city that are always looking for volunteers."

Country Fire Authority (CFA) also offers volunteer positions for people who don't necessarily believe they're suited to fighting fires on the frontline.

"People can also volunteer and help on the sidelines," Ms McCully said.

"There are plenty of ways to volunteer... for example in community safety, radio and camera operators, those involved in the juniors programs and fundraising for the Royal

Children's Hospital.

"There are a lot of areas available in the CFA that doesn't require you to be on a fire ground."

Light refreshments, tea and coffee will be available for attendees during the seminar.

The information session will run between 7pm to 8pm at Wangaratta Fire Station, Handley Street.

Anyone interested in attending the event should message Wangaratta Fire Brigade's Facebook page at facebook.com/wangfirebrigade to book their spot.

## Chimney fire controlled

WANGARATTA firefighters attended a chimney fire at a Graham Street property in Wangaratta at around 9.30pm last Thursday night.

Three units from the Wangaratta Fire Brigade attended the incident before it was listed as safe in just 11 minutes.

Residents should be reminded to clean their chimney flues at least once every 12 months to avoid a build-up of risky or flammable materials.

HAVE you or someone you know been affected by cancer?

## Cancer plan help wanted

Cancer Council Victoria is conducting a series of consultations with the public to help inform our submission to the Victorian Government for the next Victorian Cancer Plan 2020-24.

They invite you to share your valuable insights and experiences and to help identify priority areas to be considered in our submission to the Victorian Government.

This is a great opportunity to have your say and improve cancer outcomes for all Victorians.

The consultation in Wangaratta will be held on Wednesday, September 4 from 6.30pm-8.30pm at the Northeast Health Wangaratta auditorium learning and teaching centre in Green Street.

The session will be professionally facilitated and refreshments will be provided.

Register your interest to attend by contacting Alice Bastable – on Alice.Bastable@cancervic.org.au or phone (03) 9514 6675 by Monday, September 2.



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# Success stems from science week idea



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

DEMONSTRATING the practical and fun applications of science, technology, engineering and maths will continue to be a focus of Wangaratta's STEM Expo in its second year.

The expo, developed last year by local teachers as a means to celebrate National Science Week, has grown in 2017 to include more exhibitors.

They range from universities to Landcare groups, and will focus on this year's theme of Future Earth when they attend the expo to be held at Galen College on Wednesday, August 16.

The expo is being delivered by Wangaratta's Digital Technology Advisory Committee, a partnership between Charles Sturt University, GOTAFE, NE Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network, community members and local schools.

Primary and secondary students have been invited to attend the event between 12 noon and 3pm, while the doors will be thrown open to the community from 4pm to 6pm.

DTAC member Maree Timms said many of the drawcards from last year's successful first expo would return this year, including the popular NAO robot, and a taste of virtual reality through Augmented Reality.

"We also have Kristy Tossol, a former local student, coming to speak about her work as an engineer designing new developments and studying at Melbourne University," Ms Timms said.

"In keeping with the Future Earth theme, we have exhibitors like Wangaratta Urban Landcare, and the Wangaratta Sustainability Network."

Charles Sturt University, GOTAFE, University of Melbourne and Latrobe University will all be on hand to talk to students about their future plans, and the Australian Defence Forces will



STEM FUN: Galen College students Talia McLaurin (year nine) and Ryan Falconer (year eight) are looking forward to Wangaratta's second annual STEM Expo, to be held at the school on Wednesday, August 16.

PHOTO: Tyler Smith, work experience student

have information about STEM-based careers.

During the expo, local students will demonstrate their VEX robots, which they are preparing to take part in the national VEX titles to be held at the Wangaratta Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre on December 2.

"People can come along and see the VEX robots in action, talk to the kids about their experiences in last year's national titles, and hopefully then come along to watch this year's event in December," Ms Timms said.

"We got a lot of feedback on this from the community last year, about seeing the kids so engaged, and the teamwork they displayed."

Galen student Talia McLaurin said she enjoyed last year's Wangaratta STEM Expo, and is looking

**I'd encourage people to go along and learn lots of new things, and how science relates to the world.**

- student Talia McLaurin

forward to next month's event.

"It was a really good experience last year," Talia said.

"I got to meet a dancing robot, I saw how the production of milk happens, found out about wine technology, and spoke to a speech pathologist."

"I'd encourage people to go

along and learn lots of new things, and how science relates to the world."

In conjunction with this year's expo and National Science Week, an educators' conference called Digital Harvest will be held on Friday, August 18 at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre.

The event, which will run from 9am to 3.30pm, aims to inspire and enhance the practices of educators in the use of digital technology in the classroom and beyond.

Ms Timms said it would cater for those in the early childhood, primary and secondary sectors, and aims to offer new tools to teachers without extensive cost or travel involved.

"It's based on education, but open to anyone interested in the use of technology," she said.

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## Sharing the dignity this Christmas with #itsinthebag

AS we prepare to celebrate the holiday season this year with our loved ones, charity organisation Share the Dignity asks Australians to spare a thought for the 85,000 women and teenage girls experiencing homelessness, sleeping rough, or seeking refuge in domestic violence shelters each and every night.

In an effort to ensure that these women and girls do not go without, the charity has been running their 2018 'It's in the Bag' Christmas Appeal.

"We wanted to give Aussie women and girls doing it tough over the holiday period a reason to smile and feel cared for, as well as restoring some of the dignity by providing them with handbags filled with essential hygiene products, as well as a few extra little treats," Share the Dignity Founder, Rochelle Courtenay said.

The It's in the Bag campaign has a simple premise:

- Donate a handbag in good,

used condition that you no longer use;

- Fill it with items that will make a difference to the daily life of a homeless woman;
- Be sure to include the basic essentials such as pads and tampons, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and soap; and
- Add the little luxuries like lip balm and new socks, a magazine, anything that would make a woman or teenage girl feel special.

Individuals who donate bags are encouraged to pop a thoughtful note into the bag, to show these women that someone cares and that they matter.

The campaign will run until December 2, and bags can be dropped off at Bunnings stores across the country.

Share the Dignity volunteers will collect donated bags from collection points and distribute thought the holiday period to shelters and drop in clinics, ensuring that bags are available for women in time for Christmas.



FESTIVE SPIRIT: Bunnings staff member Susan Bolton is excited by the number of bags being donated as part of the Christmas appeal. PHOTO: Freyja Postlethwaite



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## Galen's robotics teams are off to nationals today

FIVE VEX Robotics teams from Galen College will head to Melbourne Exhibition Centre today, to take part in the Australian National VEX Robotics Championships.

After tasting success at last year's nationals and going onto the VEX worlds, Galen teams have been working hard to be as well prepared as possible.

"We are aiming high, and hope to gain a spot again at the 2019 VEX World Championships," teacher Maree Timms said.

"Having not played in a Melbourne competition this year, we are unsure of how strong the competition will be, but we know it will be tough.

"We do know that one of our VEX IQ teams currently holds the highest points recorded for driver skills in Australia, out of all the offi-

cially recorded events, so this bodes well for them."

The VEX competition has grown over the last two years; in 2016 there were three local teams in the nationals, with 20 teams playing at Galen.

In 2017, there were seven local teams, and the nationals were once again held in Wangaratta with 40 teams competing.

This year, the national competition has moved back to Melbourne, where 70 teams will battle it out and there will be 16 local teams competing, including five from Galen and two from Wangaratta's Borin Community Partnership.

Along with Galen's five teams, local student mentors and volunteers will also be involved.

Year 11 student Madalynn Baumanis will head the Ford Girl Powered event at the na-

tionals, which she has been asked to run by VEX Australia.

The event gives female students the chance to connect and engage with industry female leaders from Ford, helping them understand the opportunities of real world industry that result from their interest and success within their science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) studies.

Rutvik Chaudhary, Tristan Roleff and former Galen student Kyle Fry will also be there as master of ceremonies, referee and to operate the software program for the scoring.

"It's great to see so many skills being developed by our students," Ms Timms said.

"We also have a number of parents coming along to watch the action and cheer on the Galen teams."

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1 UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Erin Chadban and Adele Webber put their heads together. 2 GAME ON: Zach Campbell, Rutvik Chaudhary and Bethany Dissegna got things moving. 3 IN CONTROL: Charlie Wright, Kyle Fry and Bryan Briggs learn some manoeuvres. 4 TEAMWORK: Getting down to business were Grace Fredsberg, Lachlan Carboon and Jacob Fuge. 5 DESIGN: Ryan Falconer worked with Alison Jones. PHOTOS: Emma Hillier



# Robotics fuels science interest

By ANITA McPHERSON

AN immersive experience into the field of robotics and coding was heartily embraced by grade five and six students taking part in a challenging holiday program.

Hosted by the Digital

Technology Advisory Committee (DTAC) and presented at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre over two days last week, a capacity enrolment of 20 primary students took the opportunity to get hands on as they learnt how to design, build and drive ro-

bots, guided by members of the Galen Catholic College VEX robotics team.

CSU Wangaratta school and community outreach coordinator Anne Geddis said the atmosphere was buzzing as teams took part in a range of different activities led by

their older mentors.

She said feedback from participants who completed the program was overwhelmingly positive, with many giving the activities, and their mentors, top marks.

"There was lots of enthusiasm and it felt like they were

certainly learning – it was all very positive," she said.

"The leaders really did a fantastic job."

Designed to encourage students' interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, the DTAC will hold its

next holiday program in July.

The Galen Catholic College VEX robotics team will compete in the World VEX Robotic Championships in the USA from April 25 to 28, with updates available by visiting [www.facebook.com/galenVEX/](http://www.facebook.com/galenVEX/).

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## WEATHER



## TEMPERATURES:

Friday	Max 15 Rain	Min 9	
Saturday	Max 15 Possible shower	Min 7	
Sunday	Max 15 Cloud increasing	Min 1	
Monday	Max 15 Mostly Sunny	Min 3	
Tuesday	Max 18 Mostly Sunny	Min 4	

## RAINFALL:

	Last 72 hours	Last 7 days
Wangaratta	0.0mm	0.0mm
Lake Buffalo	0.0mm	0.4mm
Cheshunt	0.0mm	0.0mm

\*NB: Rainfall totals up until 3pm, Thursday

## NEWS TIPS

Office Hours: 5723 0100 After Hours: 5723 0107  
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Published by Hartley Higgins for North East Media Pty Ltd,  
37 Rowan Street, Wangaratta 3677.  
Responsibility for election comment is accepted by Editor  
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Member



**HAVING FUN:** Skye Beavis, 13, enjoyed the chance to check out the displays at the festival.



**PUZZLING IT OUT:** Noah Sheritt, 14, tests his skills during the Digital Innovation Festival on Wednesday.



**VISITING DISPLAY** Hashan Mendis and Taja P. Joseph from Leap Australia explain their virtual reality technology to school trainee James Turner, 17.

# Digital road-test offers insight to study, work



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
[skerwin@nemedia.com.au](mailto:skerwin@nemedia.com.au)

STUDENTS and the wider community had a chance to road-test the digital technology on their doorstep during Wednesday's Digital Innovation Festival hosted by GOTAFE.

The interactive, hands-on nature of the event, Digi Try 18, proved popular, as students and other locals toured the campus' Innovation Hub, and got a sneak peek at what the community might expect from the Wangaratta Digital Hub to be established soon alongside the Wangaratta Library.

Brett Ambrosio from GOTAFE said the event offered the ideal opportunity for people to see what was available locally, including students considering a 'gap year' course as they weighed up their options for study and work in 2019.

"People are becoming more aware through different events we've held about what is available from a digital technology point of view," he said.

"We're getting 20 to 30 people at those events, and it's usually a different 20 to 30 people each time; from that, we get some coming back to do courses."

Mr Ambrosio said GOTAFE encouraged locals who missed the Digital Innovation Festival to arrange a visit to the Innovation Hub at the Docker Street campus.

"We're happy for people to contact us if they would like a look through," he said.

GOTAFE offers regular Innova-



**TECHNOLOGY ON SHOW:** Chloe Kungl, 18, takes a look at the equipment in the Innovation Hub with design teacher Michele Hoffman. PHOTO: Mel Guy

tion Hub introduction courses, enabling people to learn how to print pre-prepared files on a 3D printer, operate a laser cutter, and print their own designs on a t-shirt.

This course leads into the product development course, where students can continue their journey with the maker movement by working on their own projects and prototypes.

Anne Shaw from NE Tracks LLEN said Digi Try 18, which also gave locals the chance to find out what the Wangaratta Digital Hub will offer when it starts up, agreed the come and try activities on Wednesday were popular.

Robotics were among the features of the display in the former

High Country Library Corporation headquarters, which will become the digital hub from September, and Ms Shaw said the festival offered a "taster" for the digital technology information centre to come.

The festival ran from noon to 6pm, and was open to the whole community.

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# Robots primed for national event at Galen

TEAMS from Galen College and Borinya will be among the tech-savvy young people taking part in tomorrow's VEX Robotics National Championships in Wangaratta.

More than 30 teams will compete at the Galen College Stadium from 9am, the first time the national event has been held outside of Melbourne.

With fellow locals from Wodonga Middle Years College, they will pit their communication, teamwork and problem solving skills against entrants from Melbourne, Canberra and Goulburn.

Each team comprises five to eight students, who have spent hours building, coding and programming their VEX robots as part of the world's biggest and fastest-growing classroom-based robotics competition.

The winners of tomorrow's national championships earn the chance to represent Australia at the 2017 VEX Robotics World Championships, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, USA.



BY SIMONE KERWIN  
skerwin@nmedia.com.au

Local teams have been working hard to catch up to their city counterparts and have their 'bots' ready on time.

While other teams have had months to prepare, the locals received their VEX robots just four weeks ago, and have been putting in plenty of extra hours in the lead-up to the championships.

But the way the event is run, there is plenty of opportunity for the local teams to earn points and be in the running.

Pairs of teams are randomly drawn to work together against two other randomly chosen teams, so strategy will play a big part in earning points.

A number of international guests will attend tomorrow's event, including Paul Copioli, president of VEX Robotics

USA; Andy Lee, president of Innovation First, Hong Kong; and Chris Hamling, national manager of Kiwibots and organiser of VEX Robotics events in New Zealand.

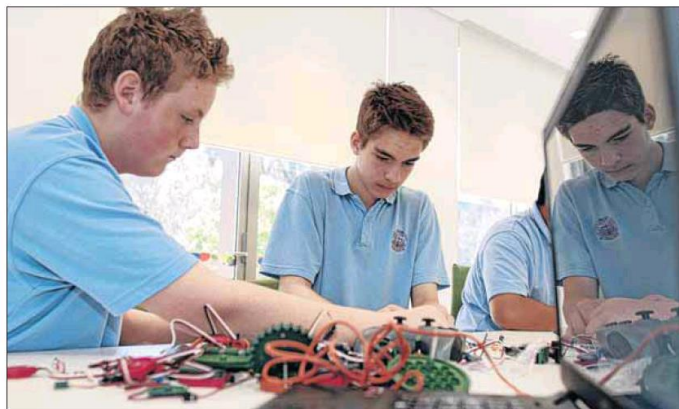
Chris will be on hand to help teams, give advice and talk to teachers about using VEX in the classroom.

The staging of the nationals in Wangaratta is another off-shoot from this year's successful STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Expo held at Galen, which was the brainchild of science teachers Maree Timms and Bernadette Albertson.

Along with Galen College, local partners making the event possible are Charles Sturt University - Wangaratta, and NETracks LLEN.

Spectators are most welcome to watch the action at Galen tomorrow.

Qualification rounds run from 9am to 1pm, and elimination rounds are scheduled for 1.30pm to 3pm, with awards to be presented at 3.15pm.



FOCUSED: Galen College students Charlie McGrath and Nicolas Jolly will be among the local entrants in tomorrow's National VEX Robotics Championships, to be held in the Galen College Stadium.  
PHOTO: Luke Plummer

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Thursday	Max 26 Possible thunderstorm	Min 17	
Friday	Max 21 Mostly sunny	Min 8	
Saturday	Max 26 Sunny	Min 7	

## RAINFALL:

	Last 72 hours	Last 7 days
Wangaratta	2.4mm	2.4mm
Lake Buffalo	7.6mm	11.0mm
Lake William Hovell	11.0mm	11.0mm

\*NB: Rainfall totals up until 3pm, Tuesday

## NEWS TIPS

Office Hours: 5723 0100 After Hours: 5723 0107  
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## CONTACTS

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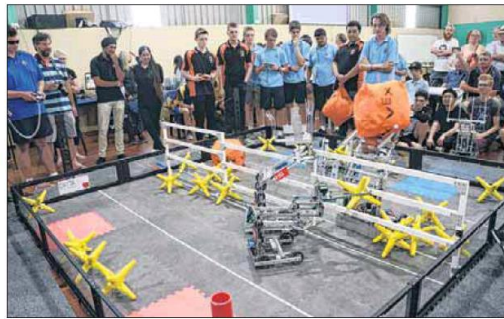


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Wednesday Issue: Display Mon. 10am. Classifieds Tues. 2.30pm  
Friday Issue: Display Wed. 10am. Classifieds Thurs. 2.30pm

Published by Hartley Higgins for North East Media Pty Ltd,  
37 Rowan Street, Wangaratta 3677.  
Responsibility for election comment is accepted by Editor  
Jeff Zeuschner.

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THE CONTEST: Competitors in action during the national championships on Saturday.  
PHOTOS: Leif Sallows



WORKING TOGETHER: Galen College VEX Robotics team members Lachlan Carboon, Tristan Roleff, Charlie McGrath, Rutvik Chaudhary and Jesse Aguilera performed well at the national championships.

# Robotic championships more than meet the eye



BY SIMONE  
KERWIN  
[skewin@nemedia.com.au](mailto:skewin@nemedia.com.au)

ORGANISERS of Saturday's VEX Australian National Robotics Championships in Wangaratta were "blown away" by the success of the event.

Galen College science teacher Maree Timms, who helped attract the event to Wangaratta as an off-shoot of this year's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Expo held at the school, said 32 teams of students and 400 spectators enjoyed the day, the largest event in the championships' six year history.

Ms Timms said teams travelled from Melbourne, Canberra and Goulburn to compete against local students from Galen, Wodonga Middle Years College, and Borinya Community Partnership.

Each team comprised five to eight students, who had spent hours building, coding and programming their VEX robots as part of the world's biggest and fastest-growing classroom-based robotics competition.

While the event is usually held in Melbourne, the location was shifted in the wake of Ms Timms' contact with Travis Burroughs, Design and Technology Teachers Association (DATTA) Victoria robotics coordinator, in the lead-up to the August STEM Expo.

"I watched a VEX robotics film clip after reading a tweet from one of the teachers I follow on Twitter, and managed to find out how



TEAMWORK: Borinya Wangaratta Community Partnership team members Kurtis Beckhouse, Nic Metcraft, Bradley Leahy, Ruby Mercer and Dan Greene.  
PHOTO: Emma Hillier

to contact Travis about coming to the expo," she said.

"He said he would love to come, but was already committed, but wondered if we would be interested in hosting the championships."

Ms Timms said the hosting role showed what could grow from an idea like the expo.

"It's just so exciting," she said. "STEM education is the buzzword, and what everyone is talking about at the moment, and for us to jump on board, and at the rate we have, is amazing."

A "full house" of spectators watched the championships in the Galen stadium on Saturday, with

the best of three grand final contest going down to the wire.

"The big comment was people saying they came to pop in and see what was going on for 15 or 20 minutes, and they were still there three hours later," Ms Timms said.

"The exciting thing was that in the finals Emmaus College chose Borinya as their alliance partner, and Hillcrest Christian College chose Galen as their alliance partner.

"So in the grand final, it was Galen and Hillcrest versus Emmaus and Borinya, and it was wonderful to see the locals involved.

"Hillcrest was the eventual winner, which means they go to

the world championships (to be held in Louisville, Kentucky next April), so they get the excellence award, but Galen gets the trophy as well."

The championships were live streamed on YouTube, via New Zealand's Chris Hamling, national manager of Kiwibots and organiser of VEX Robotics events in New Zealand.

The success of Saturday's event may bode well for the future, but Ms Timms said the Wangaratta organisers would first celebrate a job well done in 2016.

And, of course, planning for another STEM expo in 2017.

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Page 3

**Reverse Advent  
calendar success**



Page 4

**Storer settling  
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basketball with  
Green Terror**



Sport

## GREAT DISPLAY:

BORINYA Community Partnership's Nic Metcraft with his creation at the VEX Australian National Robotics Championships in Wangaratta. See story on page 2 of today's *Chronicle*.

PHOTO: Emma Hillier



# Edi crash claims life

AN Edi Upper father of two has died and his mother remains in a serious condition following a crash just 200 metres from their home.

Basil White, 42, died at the scene when the car he was driving crashed into a roadside tree.

His mother Rosemary was airlifted to the Royal Melbourne Hospital

**■ Mother airlifted to hospital, remains in serious condition**



BY STEVE  
KELLY  
skelly@nmedia.com.au

following the collision on Edi-Cheshunt Road, with an exact time yet to be determined, between

Sunday night and Monday morning.

Police confirmed the single vehicle collision happened at some time before it was discovered at about 7am on Monday.

Mrs White, a mother of eight children, remained in "a serious condition" at

Royal Melbourne Hospital yesterday, with her family by her side.

Basil's sister, Julie Kennedy, spoke fondly of her brother to the *Wangaratta Chronicle*, and said he was a hard-working man in the agricultural industry.

The father of two boys was

himself the youngest of the five brothers and Julie said he had "the biggest heart and was kind, polite, intelligent and a funny guy".

"He loved kids as he was a big kid himself, so he would play for hours with his nieces and nephews and friends' children too," Julie said.

"He has two boys Duke and Steele who were his greatest loves."

A former Wangaratta High School student, Basil had a passion for all things mechanical including motorbikes, tractors and trucks, and he also did a fitter and turner apprenticeship at Holden Engine Company Melbourne.

■ Continued page 3

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## Wangaratta RSPCA listing

WANGARATTA RSPCA has many lovable creatures waiting for the perfect family to take them home.

If you would like to add a furry member to your family, call the RSPCA on (03) 5722 2874 or visit the shelter in Connell Street.

The animal adoption source code is BR100934, and animal microchip numbers are listed below.

### Adoption cats and kittens:

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- Short hair, ginger tabby, 2 years, female, 956000010477102, 'Amber';
- Medium hair, black, 8 weeks, male, 956000010506412, 'Midnight';
- Short hair, black, 2 years, male, 956000010865585, 'Cupid';
- Medium hair, tortoiseshell, 8 weeks, female, 956000010488236, 'Brittany';
- Medium hair, grey and white, 2 years, female, 956000010477254, 'Dawn';
- Medium hair, tortoiseshell, 1 year, female, 956000010851600, 'Scat Cat';
- Short hair, black and white, 2 years, male, 900079000164102, 'Puss';
- Medium hair, black tortoiseshell, 2 years, female, 956000010848290, 'Francesca';
- Short hair, tabby, 8 weeks, male, 956000010487842, 'Milo';
- Short hair, charcoal tabby and white, 8 weeks, male, 956000010865549, 'Lochy'.



**PICKLING SEASON:** You can pickle eggs, onions, cucumbers or beetroot, why not add a non-food related 'Pickles' to your life? Pickles is an eight week old male short hair kitten and his microchip number is 956000010488539.



**AWARDED:** Galen participants at the national championships were: (back row, from left) Heath French, Patrick Comer, Tristan Roleff, Maree Timms, Beven Kandededara, Lachlan Carboon, Madelaine Ott, Mitchell Hobbs, Matt Gehrig, Brett Webber, Damien French, James Parker, Ryan Falconer, Rose Dennehy, Rutvik Chaudhary, Madalynn Baumanis; (front row, from left) Harrison Ahrens, Ethan Wilce, Jorja O'Connor, Kade Micheli, Paris McLaurin. Missing: Patrick Dissegna.

## Galen takes out VEX community award

By SIMONE KERWIN

GALEN Catholic College came away with the community award from the week-end's VEX Robotics National Championship in Adelaide.

More than 100 teams from all over Australia, Adelaide, Sydney, regional NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, Canberra, Melbourne, and North East Victoria and

Albury took part in the event, with 1000 competitors joined by about 500 adults supporting them.

While Galen did not progress to the 2020 World VEX Championship, teacher Maree Timms said the region would be well-represented in Kentucky next April by teams from St Anne's Primary School in Albury, and Wodonga Middle Years College.

Albury Robotics Club's ARC Bots team also performed well, winning the design award to also earn a place at the worlds.

Ms Timms said the teams from Galen, and from Borinaya Wangaratta Community Partnership, acquitted themselves well in a tough competition.

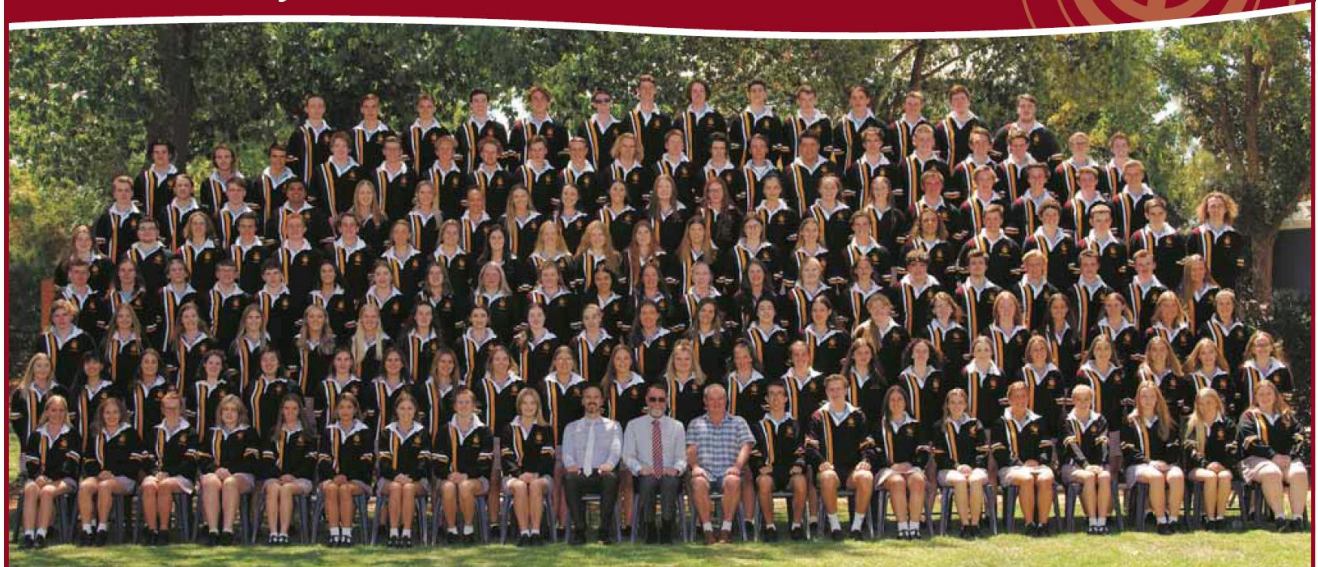
"We all had a fabulous time, and the kids are all fired

up for next season," she said.

"The Galen volunteers did an awesome job, commenting, refereeing, working as tech assistant, and of course Maddy Baumanis doing an excellent job as judge advisor."

"Emma Peel, one of the Ford engineers, said Maddy was fantastic in her role, leading well and calmly resolving curveballs as they came."

# Congratulations Year 12 2019



The Principal and Staff of Galen Catholic College wish to congratulate the Year 12 students on their outstanding achievements in 2019

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## Firearms seized as authorities crack down on illegal shooters

AUTHORITIES cracked down on illegal shooters across the North East last weekend with some found to be breaching laws.

Game Management Authority (GMA), Victoria Police and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning officers joined forces to canvass state forest, national parks and private properties in Whitfield, Tolmie, Strathbogie Ranges, Jamieson, Woods Point, Tatong and Eildon.

Over three days about 100 hunters and campers were spoken to by the compliance team after numerous complaints of illegal Sambar deer spotlighting had been recently reported by land owners, hunters and a camper to GMA, however, most were doing the right thing.

"Officers seized a number of firearms, spotlights and ammunition, and five hunters in the Tolmie area were allegedly found illegally in

possession of spotlights and firearms and will be charged with being illegally in possession of a spotlight and firearms in deer habitat," GMA chief executive officer Greg Hyams said.

"A further three hunters received official warnings for being illegally in possession of a firearm and spotlight in deer habitat."

To report suspected illegal hunting call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or GMA on 136 186.

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# Science Week rolls on after expo success



BY SIMONE KERMWIN

[skermwin@nemedi.com.au](mailto:skermwin@nemedi.com.au)

FOLLOWING another successful Wangaratta STEM Expo on Wednesday, the focus shifts today to educators, with the rural city's first annual Digital Harvest Conference.

Designed to inspire educators in the use of digital technology in the classroom and beyond, the conference at the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre will cater for those working in the early childhood, primary and secondary sectors.

Held to coincide with National Science Week, the conference follows on from Wednesday's expo held at Galen College, which attracted more than 300 students during the day and many more locals during the after school community session.

The STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) expo was delivered by the Digital Technology Advisory Committee (DTAC), a partnership between Charles Sturt University, GOTAFE, North East Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network, community members and local schools.

DTAC member Maree Timms said feedback from expo-goers had again been positive, as they browsed stalls ranging from a student maker space showcase, to information about defence careers.

There were stalls fitting with the expo's Future Earth theme, including the Wangaratta Sustainability Network, and the Rural City of Wangaratta showcasing sustainable living ideas.

Other drawcards were the VEX Robotics team's show-



LEARNING CURVE: Galen College student Arif Khan was among the school's VEX Robotics team honing its skills during Wednesday's expo. PHOTO: Kyle Wilson

case in the centre of the Galen stadium, and a Spark Engineering challenge to build a raft that could carry as many Matchbox cars as possible.

"It's been much more relaxed this year, knowing how it went last year, and knowing we have a great team behind it and you can trust everyone to play their part," Ms Timms said.

Galen College student Lachie Carboon enjoyed showing expo visitors the projects he had tackled in his 'maker space' at home.

"Most weekends I go and work on projects, I always

have something I'm working on," he said.

Craig Murphy from GOTAFE said the expo was the perfect opportunity to inform students and the wider community about the fabrication laboratory, or 'fab lab', the organisation is in the throes of establishing.

"Over the next two months we will commission the printers, then roll out programs for 2018," he said.

"There will be an opportunity for public involvement down the track; we are just looking at models for that."

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