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**Joint winners named in Young Citizen award**

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**Students graduate**

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# Mining project boost

**STAWELL** - Stawell-based exploration company Navarre Discovery is one of twelve companies to share in funding to explore for new geothermal and mineral resources.

Navarre Discovery received \$17,000 in the third round of the Brumby Labor Government's \$2.5 million Rediscover Victoria Drilling Project. The latest round of funding saw companies share in a total of \$70,000 for the exploration projects.

General Manager of Navarre Discovery, Geoff McDermott, said the company is very excited to have government backing.

"This certainly allows us to continue to explore and hopefully find new mineral programs out in this area," he said.

Mr McDermott said Western Victoria is underexplored and he is pleased the Victorian Government is following the lead of the South Australian Government by co-sponsoring drilling.

"It's hard to seek vacant ground in South Australia and the government here is trying to do the same thing."

The grant will allow Navarre Discovery to search for copper, nickel and gold 30 kilometres west of Horsham.

"The Mitre project grant is for two tenements of basement rock covered over by Murray Basement sand," Mr McDermott said.

Continued page 2.



**Joint Australia Day Citizen of the Year for Stawell, Max Kennedy, celebrates receiving the honour with his grand-daughters Natasha, Mia and Monique at Cato Park on Tuesday. See more Australia Day stories on pages 3, 7, 11, pictures page 16.**  
Picture - AIDEN LEE.



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# Celebrating Australia Day

**ARARAT** - A record crowd gathered at Alexandra Gardens in Ararat on Tuesday morning to celebrate Australia Day and acknowledge the contributions of individuals and groups within the Ararat and district community.

The gardens provided a picturesque setting for the official proceedings which saw more than 300 people converge on the lawns with deck chairs and picnic blankets.

Many people arrived early to enjoy a patriotic barbecue breakfast before the official ceremony kicked off at 10am.

Decked out in green and gold, Ararat Rural City Mayor Cr Gwenda Allgood praised the

work of volunteers within the Ararat municipality.

"Ararat has 12,000 people as you all know but in amongst those 12,000 people a number of them do extraordinary things," Cr Allgood said.

"We have so many people that work 24 hours a day, seven days a week just to keep us safe."

"We have clubs - Rotary, Y Mens Y Mennetes, Lions. We've got the local band and pipe band. We have got so many things in this community and it always impresses me the fact that so many people put their hands up to volunteer for some of them.

"My point is how lucky we are that we have a community

that works so hard for other people, works so hard consistently to just make this community even better."

Each year Ararat Rural City Council recognises the tireless work of volunteers with Australia Day awards.

Seventeen-year-old Hannah Miller was named Ararat's Young Citizen of the Year.

Brian Collins claimed the honour of Citizen of the Year for his contribution to many community groups.

The award for Community Fundraising Event of the Year was presented to SPARC in the Park, while the Lake Bolac Eel Festival took out Community Event of the Year.

## Artwork on show at Gallery

**STAWELL** - Stawell and district residents will be given a final opportunity this weekend to view an exhibition at Stawell's Railway Station Gallery.

The gallery is hosting the wildlife exhibition 'Fur and Feathers' which has been compiled by artists Rhonda Quanchi and Roger Edwards.

Fur and Feathers is a stunning exhibition of Australian birds and wildlife and African and Indian wildlife by the two very talented artists.

This weekend is the final opportunity to view the exhibition by Rhonda Quanchi and Roger Edwards.

The Fur and Feathers exhibition will be open to the public from today through to Sunday, between 10am and 4pm.



One of the many artworks by former Stawell man Roger Edwards that will feature in the Fur and Feathers exhibition at the Railway Gallery this weekend. Picture - KERRI KINGSTON.

# Mining project receives injection of funding

**From page 1.**

Mr McDermott said the rocks in this area are similar to those of the Mount Read Volcanics belt on the north-west coast of Tasmania that has played host to the profitable Mt Lyell, Rosebery and Henty mines.

Mr McDermott said unlike Tasmania, the area west of Horsham remains underexplored due to it being covered by Murray Basin sediments.

"Previous discoveries in this area have all occurred on exposed basement," Mr McDermott said.

He said geothermal technology presents the opportunity to uncover minerals by looking beneath the rocks.

"There's a new wave of discovery occurring in Victoria, which is very exciting," Mr McDermott said.

Energy and Resources Minister Peter Batchelor said the grants were awarded to recipients from across Victoria, from East Gippsland to northern and western Victoria.

"We are standing up for Victorian jobs by driving investment in communities across Victoria and that's why we are supporting companies' search for undiscovered resources below Victoria's surface," Mr Batchelor said.

Mr Batchelor said the grants would help industry search for a range of minerals, including gold, silver, copper and nickel, as well as geothermal resources.

"This round is the first time Rediscover Victoria drilling grants have been offered to geothermal companies," he said.

Mr Batchelor said there had already been promising results from the previous two rounds of grants announced since February 2008, such as BCD Metals' copper find near Hamilton.

"We know the exploration phase often holds the most risk for resource exploration companies. These grants encourage drilling in areas where little exploration has occurred," he said.

"Information generated during the exploration activities will also contribute to the develop-

ment of a state-of-the-art 3D geological model of Victoria.

"The earth resources industry is vital to the Victorian economy, contributing more than \$5 billion each year. A robust industry will not only boost Victoria's economy but will also increase employment opportunities, particularly in regional Victoria."

**THE STAWELL Times-News**

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