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Butts out at Budja

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Council targets growth

STAWELL - Several strategies have been put in place by the Northern Grampians Shire Council to target growth in its communities.

With a focus on marketing, promotion, attracting new residents and drawing new business to the region, council is committed to ensuring the economic wellbeing of the shire.

Shire chief executive officer, Justine Linley, said general marketing and promotion of the shire was one of the key strategies being adopted by the economic development team.

"Our key focus is on marketing and promotion of the shire as a great place to live, work and invest," Ms Linley said.

"It's all about growth for us, not simply being satisfied with the status quo. We as a council are very welcoming of investment, welcoming of

change and supporting people who want to have a go.

"As a result, we have been able to attract businesses that for a range of reasons are attracted to Stawell."

Ms Linley made particular mention of business ventures that are opening in Stawell, including a gun and ammunition shop and a supplier for gold detection devices.

"It is a bit of a cliché, but we literally do live on a gold mine and obviously that was what attracted the gold detector business to Stawell," Ms Linley said.

"These businesses have great potential to grow and we will work through the processes to ensure they can stay here long term."

Ms Linley also regarded Navarre Minerals as one of Stawell's success

Continued page 2.



L-R: Robert, Geraldine and Peter Carey from Carey Cov... challenge and is an example of how changing the focus

Council targets growth

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stories in the development of new business.

Navarre Minerals, an exploration company with four main exploration projects in central and western Victoria with the potential for large gold and copper-gold-zinc deposits, made the decision to base itself in Stawell.

"It was a decision the company didn't have to make. They could have established their headquarters in Ballarat, Bendigo or anywhere else, but they chose Stawell," Ms Linley said.

"We were delighted to welcome them and offer any support we could to help them develop.

"The fact the company based itself here in Stawell is an important activity from our point

of view. They have gone from strength to strength in a very short period of time."

The economic development team is very much focused on the support it can offer new businesses to open in Stawell and for existing businesses to expand.

Director of Marketing and Community Development, Samantha Magill, said the team was eager to work with the retail sector to allow businesses to look at how they can boost sales. This could relate to having a rethink about what they are offering, what type of business they actually are operating and targeting new markets through adding a variety of product lines.

"The redevelopment at Safeway is a great example of that," Ms Magill said.

"The fact Woolworths wanted to invest so much into the redevelopment was a good show of faith in Stawell by a multi-national company.

"Having said that, we haven't taken our eyes off the ball regarding the potential and opportunities that exist to work with other multi-national companies to attract them to Stawell.

"The team is very targeted towards what support we can offer and the networking connections we can provide businesses to make their journey smooth.

"We are able to answer their specific enquiries and steer them in the right direction to attract funding from outside sources as well."

Police holding lost property

STAWELL - Stawell Police are currently holding several items of lost property.

A hedge trimmer, a camera with a case and two iPhones are among the property handed into the station as well as a lady's mountain bike, three male mountain bikes and two kids. Other items include a trailer tyre, a lady's wrist watch, a concrete ornament, three BMX push bikes, a case containing a screwdriver set, two bike helmets, sunglasses and prescription glasses with case.

Contact Leading S/C Jo Orr on 5358 8222.



Year 8 student Mikeala Pahl has

Designer

STAWELL - Students in Malloy's year eight health class at the Stawell Secondary College have been busy making designer cakes.

The students investigated, designed, produced and analysed and evaluated the designer cup cakes and served them for morning tea as a special invited guest. For this major assessment task, they were required to complete a number of activities including designing an invitation requesting the pleasure of a family member, such as a parent, to attend the morning tea. This invitation was then posted out to the parent.

The students were responsible for:

- Trialing two recipes at home over the holidays.
- Organising the foods and other materials required for the afternoon morning tea day.



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