

# St Pat's hall blessing

**STAWELL** - St Patrick's Primary School staff, students, families and friends gathered for the official opening and blessing of the school's new multi-purpose hall.

Principal, Kylie Smith said significant work had gone into creating the multi-purpose space and that the staff and students were thrilled with the result.

The students were given the opportunity to participate in the opening by singing hymns and dramatising the reading of the Gospel.

The new facilities were blessed by the Most Reverend Peter Connors, Bishop of Ballarat, who made the trip to Stawell for the occasion.

Ms Smith thanked Bishop Connors for playing a part in the ceremony.

"It's a real privilege and an honour to have you open our building today," she said.

In his homily, Bishop Connors said he was pleased to be involved.

"It's always a joy for me to come and visit a school, particularly when it's an important day in the story of the school and surely today marks a very important moment for St Patrick's school," he said.

Ms Smith also thanked parish priest, Father Eric Bryant for his continued support of the school.

Father Bryant officially opened the hall and unveiled the plaque alongside Bishop Connors and Ms Smith.

In her closing address, Ms Smith paid tribute to former principal Tony Capurso.

"I only became principal and walked in and there was a new building - it was wonderful really, but Mr Capurso was really here at the beginning of it all, the designing and planning for this building and it's really part of his vision of what he wanted for this school," she said.

Ms Smith said St Patrick's School was grateful to the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution program, which gave the school a \$925,000 grant to build the hall.

"It's an enormous amount of money when you think about it and I feel really privileged and honoured to have this building here today for our school," she said.

Ms Smith also recognised Kevin Murphy, who helped design the hall and was extremely helpful through all stages of the building process.

"I have to thank the builders and the landscapers as well."

"Lastly, I would like to thank all the staff and the students. It has been a 'life altering' experience so to speak."

Ms Smith said the students coped well with losing their oval so the hall could be built using some of the space. The school now has a smaller oval for the children to play on and Ms Smith thanked the students for their tolerance throughout the process.

"We've had to stop you from using different areas all along the way, but you've been absolutely wonderful and so have the staff as well."



At the official opening and blessing of the new St Patrick's School Hall L-R Father Eric Bryant, Bishop of Ballarat, Most Reverend Peter Connors and school principal, Kylie Smith. PICTURE AND STORY - SARAH SCULLY.

# Navarre Minerals expands exploration

**REGION** - Stawell-based Navarre Minerals will focus on the search for gold in an expanding exploration program.

The 4.2 million-dollar project will be centred on Tandarra forty kilometres north of Bendigo, according to chairman Kevin Wilson in the company's annual report to shareholders released recently.

The Greenfield geophysical and drilling program will be one of the largest mineral exploration spending undertakings in Victoria for 2011.

Navarre, which listed only in March this year, is one of a new breed of exploration companies committed to rebuilding Victoria's reputation as a producer of minerals in general and gold

in particular.

Victoria currently has a handful of operating gold mines but a rich heritage of mining tradition, including the Stawell and Fosterville Gold Mines operated by Canadian company, Northgate Minerals and the soon to be re-started Ballarat Gold Mine, owned by the ASX-listed Castlemaine Gold.

"This is quite a major undertaking for a company based in Western Victoria," said Navarre managing director, Geoff McDermott.

Mr Wilson praised Mr McDermott and his team for its excellent work since the company's listing on the Australian Securities Exchange in March this year.

Mr Wilson acknowledged the hard work by Navarre Minerals over the course of the year ending 30 June 2011 to ensure the company quickly commenced its exploration programs as it started life as a listed entity.

The outlook for 2012 is for more exploration success at Bendigo North, with an aggressive approach to testing concepts and applying cutting edge exploration science key goals for the company.

Navarre is well funded and over the coming months, will be following through with one of the largest exploration programs seen in Victoria in recent years.

# Grampians sites re-open

**REGION** - Popular Grampians sites badly damaged by storms earlier this year have re-opened in time for the school holidays.

These sites include the Pinnacle and Sundial Lookouts, the walk to the base of Mackenzie Falls and Jimmy Creek Campground, which are all tourist drawcards.

Ranger in Charge, David Roberts said these re-openings could not come at a better time for visitors and local tourism operators.

"Spring is fantastic in the Grampians and roads and walking tracks are currently adorned by a sheet of wildflowers," Mr Roberts said.

"Common species in flower include Wattles, Bush Peas, Grevilleas and Thryptomene. Waterfalls are still in full flow and new landscapes have been revealed by the impacts of the floods.

Mr Roberts said Parks Victoria staff and flood recovery crews had been working hard right across the park following January's floods to reinstate walking tracks and other park infrastructure such as vital access roads, bridges, drainage and campgrounds.

"The flood recovery program has thrown many challenges our way," he said.

"At Mackenzie Falls, for example, reinstating the rock crossing at the base of the falls could only occur once water levels within the Mackenzie River had dropped to safe access levels."

Mr Roberts said visitors should note that VicRoads is carrying out recovery works on Mount Victory Road between Halls Gap and the Silverband Road turnoff. Access to the Sundial carpark, the Pinnacle and Sundial lookouts will only be available from the Wartook Valley, via Roses Gap Road.

The Wonderland carpark also remains closed, so those interested in a strenuous hike can also access the Pinnacle via the Mackey's Peak track from Halls Gap.

## DEVOTIONAL

Recently I watched the movie Next starring Nicholas Cage, the basic premise is that the lead character can see into the future just enough to make a difference.

What if we could look into the future and see what it holds for us, how would we respond to what we saw?

Our careers, lifestyle, relationships all played out before us on a big screen before we've even lived it.

What would we change, the death of a loved one or a child, our finances, or perhaps our relationships?

Would it be enough to see just ahead or do we want to see our whole life planned out before us.

It's all just speculation of course, we can't see into the future, we can dream and plan and hope that what we desire will come to pass.

The lead character in the movie makes this statement "when we look at the future it changes because we looked"

There is one who knows our future, if we choose to take His pathway. God says in Jeremiah 29 verse 11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (New Revised Standard version) Even though this promise is to the nation of Israel during a time of scattering and oppression, we can also accept it as a promise to us, particularly, when we call on the name of Lord for our salvation.

We often would dream about what we would like for ourselves, how we could have a better life or where we could be in a few years time. Seeing our future doesn't guarantee that it will be, we still have to plan it and live.

God through Christ offers us a life that He has planned out for us if we choose to accept it.

To prosper in God is not simply to have riches for today but to be enriched by a relationship with our creator, to discover that as we walk through our life and circumstances, we do not need to fear what our future holds, all because God loves us and cares for our wellbeing.

Let me encourage you that as you dream about your future look into God's plan for it and discover the wonderful gift that God has for you.

Contact your local Christian Church to learn more about God's love for you.

Blessings  
Craig Allan

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If you are currently receiving the Disability Support Pension and would like to find fulfilling, sustainable part-time work Community AXIS can help.

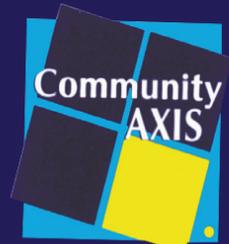
Community AXIS can assist you with preparing your resume, job application and the extra training you may require to obtain and maintain suitable employment. You can discuss your career choices and options with your own Specialist Employment Consultant. Once employment is secured ongoing support is provided in the work place for as long as required.

Contact Viv Watson, Employment Services Manager for further information

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