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Golden hopes



GOLD DIGGING: A diamond drill rig in operation at Kingston used to find gold. Picture: CONTRIBUTED

Drilling starts at Kingston

By TED O'CONNOR

STAWELL based mineral exploration company Navarre Minerals has started tapping into a potential gold mine along the Landsborough Fault.

The company has begun diamond drilling at Kingston Gold Project, 30 kilometres north-east of AuRico's Stawell Gold Mine.

Navarre Minerals managing director Geoff McDermott predicted the AuRico mine would be interested in the results of the exploration drilling.

"Stawell Gold Mine is one of our biggest shareholders," he said.

Mr McDermott said he was surprised no-one had previously picked up on such a potentially lucrative site.

"We rate this opportunity highly," he said. "After stopping for Christmas, drilling has gone well. People will have to stay tuned for some big finds."

Navarre Minerals owns exploration permits along the Landsborough Fault Zone and has been awarded a licence to explore the historic Glendhu and Wimmera gold mines.

Mr McDermott said the diamond impregnated drill bit, used to cut cores from the site, was expensive new technology.

"After some initial teething problems we've been able to drill about six to eight drill holes," he said.

Mr McDermott said Kingston was one of many Navarre Minerals prospects.

"Navarre has an exciting exploration program focused on mineralised regions adjacent to major faults such as the Landsborough Fault at Kingston and the Whitelaw Fault, 40 kilometres north of Bendigo," he said.

"Our next step will be to evaluate how much gold is in the Kingston prospect."

Chlamydia on the rise among young

CHLAMYDIA rates in the Wimmera have almost doubled and in some cases, tripled, since 2008.

Chlamydia is the most common notifiable sexually transmitted infection among young people in Australia and can affect both men and women.

New statistics from the Victorian Department of Health show cases of chlamydia have risen from eight to 24 in Northern Grampians Shire.

Cases in the Ararat, West Wimmera and Hindmarsh municipalities have also increased significantly.

In 2008 there were 21 cases of chlamydia in Ararat, five in West Wimmera shire and six in Hindmarsh shire.

In 2011, there were 40 Ararat cases, 10 West Wimmera cases and 12 Hindmarsh cases.

Horsham Rural City has also had an increase in chlamydia cases, as has Yarriambiack Shire.

Horsham had 38 cases in 2008, compared with 53 cases in 2011, while Yarriambiack had two cases in 2008, compared with nine in 2011.

Lister House Medical Clinic's Dr Francois Pretorius attributed the high rates of chlamydia to sexual promiscuity among young people.

"Essentially, young people are having intercourse much younger than they did a couple of years ago and they are a bit more promiscuous," he said.

"There are no symptoms, so people who have chlamydia can easily spread it.

"It is worrying that people are having intercourse without protection, with usually more than one partner."

Dr Pretorius said alcohol could also be a factor.

"If your guard is down it is easier to end up in a compromising situation and a condom isn't always at hand," he said.

'The main thing is to protect yourself'

Dr Francois Pretorius

"To prevent chlamydia people should always insist their partner wears a condom, because a condom is the one thing that will protect you."

Dr Pretorius said chlamydia was not just a penile infection.

He said it could also be contracted anally and orally.

"The main thing is to protect yourself, especially because chlamydia can have long-term effects and can cause infertility in women," he said.

"If you suspect that you've got an infection, or one of your sexual partners has, see a doctor.

"The best test is a swab test, for a woman that's a cervical swab and for a man, a urethral swab.

"A urine test can be done as well, but it's not as sensitive."

Kaitlyn Opie

SES, fire centre

A JOINT CFA-Victorian SES emergency centre is set to be built at Wycheproof.

Member for Swan Hill Peter Walsh said the new centre would replace the town's CFA and SES units' outdated facilities and boost community safety.

"The SES unit's facilities are in poor condition and in an under-sized and unsuitable location," he said.

"The CFA brigade needs a much bigger site to house its pump, tanker and light vehicle.

"Bringing the two units together in a state-of-the-art venue will provide more efficiency."

A site for the proposed building is yet to be confirmed.

Licensee fined

A MURTOA hotel owner has been fined for having traded outside its licensing conditions.

Police fined the hotel \$733 on Sunday after it traded after its licence expiry time of 11pm.

Sergeant Brendan Khan of Murtoa said the hotel operator told police he thought the licence ended at 1am.

Sgt Khan said crowds were well behaved at Murtoa's New Year's Day races.

Car leaks fuel

A CFA District 16 fire brigade has assisted a car leaking fuel on Ararat-Halls Gap Road.

Moyston Fire Brigade attended the minor incident in Moyston on Monday at 10am. Duty officer Ian Morley said the crew brought the incident under control very quickly.

There was no fire.

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