

The Courier

SERVING THE BALLARAT REGION SINCE 1867

\$1 (inc GST)

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2004

EUREKA 150

TODAY
Fine
12
TOMORROW
Fog then fine
13



OLYMPIC VISIT
**KIDS
MEET
THEIR HERO**

Page 6

AWARDING
OUR BEST
BEERS

Page 7



YOUR 7-DAY
TV GUIDE

INSIDE

BALLARAT ICON IN MINI-GOLF PLAN



GIANT WELCOME: An artist's impression of the big miner and Eureka flag that will greet visitors entering Ballarat from Melbourne if the mini-golf course plan goes ahead.

THE BIG MINER

Eureka theme in bold new look for eastern entrance

By Andrew Jefferson

A 54-HOLE mini-golf course is planned for Ballarat featuring a big miner icon carrying the Eureka flag.

Queensland-based company WMJ Attractions wants to build an indoor/outdoor mini-golf course on a 5000 square metre site off the Western Fwy.

The 18-hole outdoor course would be called Gold Rush Mini Golf while the two 18-hole indoor

courses would take on other Australian themes.

But the centrepiece would be the 12-metre high concrete miner which would propel Ballarat into the big icon league.

WMJ Attractions already runs a successful 54-hole mini-golf course at Surfers Paradise called King Tutt's Putt Putt, which attracts 80,000 customers a year.

Continued Page 2



nts' e arges loubt

LDA players Milne and Montagna will be of rape allegations according to a report.

Nine last reported the duo not be charged, a police in-

officials not comment, club saying it seeking confirmation from police.

spokesman We have not officially advised Director of Publications on the of this matter, we advised the

March 16, the confirmed police investigating sex ns against and Montagna.

following day, confirmed the yers were the of a rape inves-

allegations re-vents after the annual family involved two

the two players o comment, St has always denied the al-

Continued Page 3

carworks

...why would you go anywhere else?

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Bold plan for city's entrance

From Page 1

Managing director Wayne Johnston hopes to submit a permit for the project later this month with its opening, barring objections, planned to coincide with the Eureka 150 celebrations in December.

The \$1.5 million investment will create 15 new jobs and is designed to complement Ballarat's existing tourism attractions.

Mr Johnston said the company had looked at Coffs Harbour and Singapore before deciding on Ballarat as the ideal location for its latest venture.

"I've been right around Australia, up and down the coast, but this is the best site I've seen," Mr Johnston said.

"I'm originally from Melbourne and remember coming to Sovereign Hill as a child and this will fit in perfectly with the city's goldrush theme.

"Although mini golf has been around for many years, some of the courses have become fairly boring.

"This course will certainly have that wow factor and will give customers an experience that they will go away and tell their friends about."

Mayor David Vendy said the council was supportive of the scheme in principal, but expected the big miner icon to create a "spirited debate".

"Our research tells us that we have 2.2 million visitors coming to Ballarat from that direction and this will fill that gap in the market for a theme park to complement Sovereign Hill," Cr Vendy said.



"I'm originally from Melbourne and remember coming to Sovereign Hill as a child and this will fit in perfectly with the city's gold rush theme"

"The big icon will help to spell out Ballarat's history, which was built on gold, and will also help to develop that eastern approach."

Mr Johnston plans to install two 10,000 gallon water tanks and access bore water on site to service the new attraction.

However, the complex will be entirely self-sufficient as all water used on the course will be recycled.

Councillors are believed to have discussed the concept at Wednesday's forum meeting, when they gave their in-principal approval to the project.

PROPOSED BIG MINER ICON

How many big icons have you seen? Let us know by writing to The Courier, PO Box 21, Ballarat 3353



- Big Apple - Stanthorpe QLD
- Big Apple - Donnybrook WA
- Big Avocado - Tweed Heads NSW
- Big Banana - Coffs Harbour NSW
- Big Barramundi - Daintree QLD
- Big Blue Heeler - Muswellbrook NSW
- Big Bull - Wauchope NSW
- Big Boomerang - Eumundi QLD
- Big Bundy Ginger Beer Bottle - Tewantin QLD
- Big Captain Cook - Cairns QLD
- Big Cassowary - Mission Beach QLD
- Big Chicken - Moonbi NSW
- Big Cow - Nambour QLD
- Big Cow - Brunswick Junction WA
- Big Eight Ball - Port Macquarie NSW
- Big Fish - Caboolture QLD
- Big Galah - Kimba SA
- Big Gold Panner - Bathurst NSW
- Big Guitar - Tamworth NSW
- Big Kangaroo - Border Village SA
- Big Koala - Dadswell Bridge VIC
- Big Little Uluru - Princes Hwy NSW
- Big Lobster - Kingston SA
- Big Macadamia Nut - Nambour QLD
- Big Marlin - Cairns QLD
- Big Merino - Goulburn NSW
- Big Miner - Ballarat VIC*
- Big Murray Cod - Swan Hill VIC
- Big Mushroom - Belconnen ACT
- Big Ned Kelly - Glenrowan VIC
- Big Orange - Berri NSW
- Big Orange - Harvey WA
- Big Oyster - Taree NSW
- Big Pavlova - Marulan NSW
- Big Peanut - Atherton Tablelands QLD
- Big Potato - Robertson NSW
- Big Pumpkin - Beaudesert QLD
- Big Pumpkin - Goomeri QLD
- Big Pineapple - Gympie QLD
- Big Pineapple - Nambour QLD
- Big Prawn - Ballina NSW
- Big Ram - Wagin WA
- Big Sundial - Singleton NSW
- Big Shell - Tewantin QLD
- Big Sticks - Eumundi QLD
- Big Sundial - Singleton NSW
- Big Tinnie - Cobar NSW
- Big Triceratops - Ballendean NSW
- Big Trout - Adaminaby NSW
- Big Termites Nest - NT
- Big Tree - Buladelah NSW
- Big Waterfalls - Eland NSW
- Big Whale - Nullarbor Roadhouse SA
- Big Windmill - Coffs Harbour NSW
- Big Winch - Coober Pedy SA
- Big Woolbales - Hamilton VIC
- Big Worm - Bass VIC

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PLANS FOR A BIG MINER?



Zelie Dalgiesh, Ballarat
"I think it's a bit over the top."



Damien Chapman, Daylesford
"It's a great idea, especially if it's a Ballarat Neighbourhood Cable Miner."



Caitlin Overington, Ballarat
"I think the money would be better spent fixing up roads."



Bruce Dalgiesh, Mt Egerton
"It would be a traffic hazard. Somebody might crash into something."



Tammy Griffith, Ballarat
"I think it's a good idea, definitely not too tacky."

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INSIDE TODAY	
Opinion	8
Masterson	9
Features	10, 11
World	12, 14
World features	15, 16
Business	20-22
Racing liftout	23-26
People & Places	27, 28
Comics	29
Classifieds	30-35
Movies	35
Sport	36-46, 48
Pedro	39
TV, weather	47
Tattslotto	47

TOMORROW	
THE STATE WE'RE IN	
PROPERTY GUIDE	
AUTO GUIDE	
JOBS GUIDE	

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