



UNVEILING BALLARAT'S BIG MINER

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INSIDE MONDAY YOUR GUIDE TO BALLARAT'S HERITAGE WEEKEND



NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION

I'M WATCHING... opening his... Park owner G... Picture: Jerem...

TAKING SHAPE: Gold Rush Golf business partner Brian Parker and project director Wayne Johnston with the controversial Big Miner which will be lifted into place within the next few weeks. Picture: Jeremy Bannister

Final touches put on mini-golf park

By Andrew Jefferson

WORKERS are busy putting the finishing touches to a spectacular \$1.5 million mini-golf theme park on the outskirts of Ballarat.

The Courier was this week given a sneak preview of Gold Rush Golf next to the Woolshed on the Western Hwy, which is set to open in December.

Work on an 18-hole outdoor course based on a gold rush theme is taking shape while two nine-hole courses inside offer budding Tiger Woods an even greater challenge.

The first nine-holes take golfers on a Jurassic Park

dinosaur experience before putters enter a time-tunnel transporting them back to medieval times.

No expense has been spared on the props, including 40 themed models which watch golfers every move.

While all eyes outdoors will centre on the much debated six-metre high Big Miner, the centrepiece indoors will be a four-metre high King Kong statue.

The Big Miner is set to be raised in the next few weeks with Mayor David Vendy expected to perform the unveiling.

Project director Wayne Johnston had hoped to open the theme park in time for



HUGE: A giant King Kong is already in place.

the Eureka 150 celebrations in 2004 but controversy surrounding the Big Miner set

the project back more than two years.

Mr Johnston said the world-class theme park would boost Ballarat's status as a tourist destination.

"It will be a quality themed attraction and heaps of fun for all the family," he said.

"People won't see a mini-golf course of this quality anywhere else in Australia and we believe it will attract a lot of families from Melbourne.

"My Gold Coast course is just a baby compared to this one, this one will be full-on and every corner people turn will be an adventure.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing it open and watching that 'wow' factor."

Mr Johnston said the 36-holes would provide a challenge to even the most experienced golfer while also catering for first-timers.

"They will all have their own little tricks and things, but they're all designed to have a good flow factor, you can't have bottle neck situations," he said.

"But they will still be quite challenging.

"Each hole will also have a plaque by it on the history of Ballarat so schools can use the park for educational trips."

A MAN charged over Tuesday... chase threatened to... buses if police continue... pursuit, a court heard yesterday... Ballarat Magistrates Court... told Michael Leslie Ho... telephoned police on a... during the spree, also war...

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... tests. Now... new BMW Z4 M Coupe. A 3.2 litre... engine. 0-100km/h 5.0 seconds. 365 Nm of torque... the new BMW 3 Series Coupe. A 3.0 litre twin turbo magnesium in-line six engine. 0-100km/h in 5.5 seconds. 400 Nm of torque. Both models will be unveiled on **Thursday October 19**. See the beauty. Feel the power. Share the passion

Ballarat BMW

Cnr Sunraysia Hwy & Waringa Drive, Wendouree, VIC 3355
Ph: 03 5339 9339 LMCT 10231

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