

The Latrobe Valley Express

your community



Mr Walker and friends: Pictured (front l-r) are Telstra Countrywide's Loretta Willatton, Leukemia Foundation Gippsland's Jenny Breheim, GipspsTAFE's Kylie Gore, Leukemia Foundation Gippsland's Judy Woods and (back l-r) mecu's Anthony Heinemann and guest speaker Max Walker.

Max says there's no time in life to relax

LARGER-THAN-LIFE personality Max Walker provided an uplifting presentation at the final Gippsland Community Network Breakfast for 2008.

Drawing on his experiences as one of Australia's cricketing greats, the face of multi million dollar marketing campaigns, an architect, writer, marketer and traveller, Walker provided the audience with a glimpse of the doors that have opened to him throughout his life and the passion, energy and enthusiasm that drives him.

The Gippsland Community Network Breakfast is a not-for-profit initiative coordinated through a partnership between community credit union mecu, Latrobe City, GipspsTAFE and Telstra Countrywide Gippsland.

Anthony Heinemann, the representative for mecu said Walker's passion, drive and sense of humour had opened doors.

"Stories from his cricketing days playing alongside legends such as Dennis Lillee, Rodney Marsh and the Chappell brothers were interwoven with memories of his childhood growing up in Hobart and his big break into state cricket," Mr Heinemann said.

"He reflected on his father's pearls of wisdom to do his best, his passion for people, places and travel and the twists and turns his life has taken by daring to have a go."

Mr Heinemann said Walker's mix of intellect, experiences and larrikin view of the world made him an enthralling speaker.

Walker told the audience he believed a negative attitude brought negative experiences, a good attitude attracted good things, while an extraordinary attitude could do amazing things.

"Life isn't always flash and sometimes it is not fair," Walker said.

"It has its highs and lows but it is what we do about our circumstances and environment that really counts.

"If people are going through a tough time, whether that's because of the economic downturn, personal circumstances or business problems, the worst thing they can do is shut themselves away.

"It is by participating, and engaging with others that the opportunities flow."

His message was to accept and embrace change because whatever makes you successful today, probably won't tomorrow.

Mr Heinemann said Max Walker's presentation provided a great finale to last year's breakfast program.

Speakers have included Port Arthur shooting victim Walker Mikac, businesswoman Jennifer Weller and Peter Dorling of the Committee for Geelong.

"The aim of the program is to expose local people to a range of high profile speakers and provide a networking opportunity for people to get together," Mr Heinemann said.

The Gippsland Community Net-



Ready to roll: Contractors installed new skatepark equipment in Churchill last month.

Skatepark is big improvement

CHURCHILL'S new concrete skatepark has won the approval of young people from the town and beyond.

Skaters have had to make do with steel equipment since it was moved from the original skatepark site to make way for Churchill's Community Hub project.

Latrobe City councillor, Darrell White said the steel skate ramps were a temporary measure

while a permanent park layout utilising concrete skate-ramps was designed in consultation with young people.

"I think the young people of Churchill are going to be thrilled with the new facility," Cr White said.

Final components of the park such as tables, chairs and a shelter will be installed in February.

work Breakfast series will recommence in February.

Bookings for the breakfasts can be made by phoning Pat Coles on 0428 746 207.

Traralgon East dance

TRARALGON East Senior Citizens will conduct its usual monthly dance this Saturday from 8pm-11.30pm.

Music will be by Blue Bayou. Admission is \$7 and supper is supplied.

There will be a door prize, Monte Carlo and lucky spots. For further information phone Eric on 5174 2704.

Country music coach tour

A coach tour to Barham Country Music Stampede will aim to raise funds for the Country Fire Authority.

The tour will leave Traralgon at 8am on 14 February and pick up passengers en route to Melbourne. The coach will return on 18 February.

Artists performing at the stam-

pede include Laura Downie, Shane Teinake, Olive Bice, Wayne Horsbrough and Rodney Vincent to name a few. The Howie Bros will hold a dance night.

Cost for the tour over five days is \$429 and includes coach, entertainment, motel, breakfast and dinner.

For enquiries phone Val Murphy on 5634 6267.

Latrobe Breast Cancer support

LATROBE Breast Cancer Support Group will hold its first meeting for the year on 15 January.

The informal luncheon will be at a member's home from 11am-11.30am. Please bring a plate to share. For directions phone 5174 4006.

The February meeting will be discussed at the luncheon as the group is unable to meet at its usual venue for three months, due to renovations.

New members are welcome. For further information phone 5174 2398 or 5127 2034.