

Deni mill opening instils hope at Coly

By EMILY TINKER

SUNRICE has no current plans for the Coleambally rice mill despite announcing the reopening of the Deniliquin mill this week.

While SunRice chairman Gerry Lawson said a strong crop forecast had led to the announcement, a company spokesperson said it was too early in the season to predict how much rice will be produced across the region and decisions about the Coleambally mill could not be made "at this early stage".

"The rice planting period has not concluded and can continue through to mid to late November. It is too early to predict how much rice will be produced in Coleambally and across the whole industry. Decisions about rice receipt, processing and employment cannot be made at this early stage," the spokesperson said. "Based on early predictions

SunRice is confident the stronger crop warrants the opening of the Deniliquin Mill in addition to the Leeton Mill."

Coleambally Irrigation chairman and rice grower Trent Gardiner said the reopening of mills across the region showed great confidence in the revival of the local industry and he was confident in the decisions being made by the SunRice board.

"It doesn't really make any difference to Coleambally rice growers because our receipts are still open but it shows the season is back on track and it does inspire more confidence in the farmers," Mr Gardiner said. "I believe the board is acting in the best interest of the business as a whole and I have confidence in the decisions they are making."

"I just hope the good season continues."

But Murrumbidgee shire general manager Paul Goodsall said the Deniliquin mill reopening was a positive sign for

Coleambally residents with the reopening of their mill a possibility in the future.

"They haven't contacted council at this stage but it does give us some hope that the Coleambally mill might open somewhere down the track," he said. "I heard some people say the other day they would need 850,000 tonnes to consider reopening Coly and they've predicted 800,000 tonnes for this coming harvest."

"There's obviously not enough at this stage and I wouldn't imagine they would open it up unless it had a reasonable lifespan but all we can do is wait and see, hopefully Coly will be next."

While many people lost their jobs and moved away from the region when the Coleambally mill shut down, Mr Goodsall said reopening it had the potential to bring people back to the shire and build up communities that had been suffering under the drought for the past decade.

Horrific crash claims two

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from the passenger seat and into the middle of the roadway.

She was killed instantly while her 22-year-old granddaughter, Ria Bhardwaj, was rushed to Leeton Hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.

Another passenger, 24-year-old Monika Bhardwaj, suffered severe spinal injuries and was later airlifted to Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital, where she remains in a critical condition.

The driver and only occupant of the Toyota four-wheel-drive, a Leeton man in his 60s, and the driver of the Holden Commodore were uninjured but treated for shock at Griffith Base Hospital.

Griffith Police Inspector Gordon Dunlop was one of the first on the scene.

"Here we have yet another horrific crash in the Riverina and it's simply a tragedy for all concerned," Insp Dunlop said.

"It's another reminder that people must be extra vigilant at all times when they're behind the wheel."

Police closed off the road in both directions from about 6.15pm Saturday until 3am the next morning.

The vehicles were removed by crane while traffic was diverted around the scene.

Local detectives and crime scene investigators from Albury attended and a brief is being prepared for the coroner, with police saying charges were possible.

The tragedy comes just days after the death of Griffith man Jan Butland, a local high school casual teacher who died when his car collided with a tree near Darlington Point on Thursday.

Band's talent is no joke

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popular talent-seeking show, the band of misfits soon found themselves in Albury putting on one hell of a show for the program's producer.

"We got an email from a researcher at Fremantle Media, but we weren't sure it was the real deal," the band's bass player Steve Ward said.

"We all thought one of us was a playing jokes on the others. But we sat down and figured out it was for real and had to decide whether we wanted to go or not."

"We probably wouldn't have even considered it if we hadn't got that email, but we thought it would be a good opportunity and we sent them off a demo and they told us to come along to the auditions."

With hundreds of acts turning out for the rather rigorous audition stage, Youze 3 knew they had to make themselves stand out to the producers.

"When we got down there in the line, I saw we were the only electronic band that was there, everyone else was doing acoustics," Mr Ward said.

"But when I introduced us I told them Rhys was a cabinet maker, Christian was a pre-school teacher and I was a lawyer, and that made them sit up a bit and take notice."

"I think the performance went off really well. We were able to have our families in the room when we performed so that was good support for us."

The local band performed *Slide* by the Goo Goo Dolls for their audition and, while Mr Ward is confident they've got through, the trio will have to wait until February 4 to find out for sure.

You can eat, drink, be merry

By ALEXIS CAREY

THE promise of eating chocolate, drinking alcohol and staying slim might sound too good to be true – but it is possible, according to visiting author and motivational speaker Andrew Jobling.

The author of *Eat Chocolate, Drink Alcohol and be Lean & Healthy* was brought to town by Collins Booksellers and spoke to guests at Griffith City on Wednesday afternoon about the importance of health, wellbeing and balance.

Mr Jobling said losing weight and living the life you've always wanted doesn't have to be as tough as many people think.

"It's all about moderation and balance and making small but smart changes that will last forever – it's not about losing weight quickly to fit into a smaller dress," Mr Jobling said.

"It's commonsense – people should eat natural food, eat breakfast, snack regularly and enjoy an indulgence here and there and not feel guilty."

Mr Jobling said his main message was a simple one: work out what you want and take small steps to achieve it.

"It's the simple everyday decisions that determine where we end up and it's the little decisions that can make every day healthier and happier."

Local man Leon Thorpe attended Mr Jobling's speech and said young and old were entertained by his commonsense approach and humour.

"This man entertained people aged 13 to 83 and he kept everyone's attention perfectly," Mr Thorpe said.

"He had a really simple but important message and we all enjoyed it very much."



MOTIVATION GURU: Visiting author and motivational speaker Andrew Jobling, pictured with local woman Sandra Boldistan, visited Griffith City Library on Wednesday afternoon to help locals achieve health, wellbeing and balance. Mr Jobling is the author of the bestselling *Eat Chocolate, Drink Alcohol and be Lean & Healthy* and believes losing weight and living the life you've always wanted is achievable.

RETURN THANKS



Sergio Domenico Angelo Vardanega

25.01.1936 - 10.10.2010

The family of the late Sergio Vardanega would sincerely like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to family, relatives & friends who through their prayers, love and deeds have given us great comfort & strength during our time of great need.

Thank you to those who visited, sent beautiful flowers, food platters & cards & for your generous donations which have been delivered to the Griffith Base Hospital Intensive Care Unit.

We send a special thank you to Maria & Greg Angel, the Griffith Police & Ambulance officers, all of whom assisted our family on the Sunday.

We wish to also thank Fr Beltrame, Fr Neru and Tony & Anna Zorzanello & Belinda Aventi.

Please accept our sincere appreciation.

Luciana, Michael & Agnes, Paul & Louise, Amanda & Jarrod and Families.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Wednesday 10.11.2010 at 5:30pm at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Griffith.

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ONGOING SPECIALS





Monday

- Huge Burger (choice of Beef & Bacon Burger or Chicken & Bacon Burger)
- The Cove Chips & Aoli
- Beer/glass of wine or softdrink

LUNCH & DINNER

Tuesday

- Angus Beef Steak
- The Cove Mash & Veg - or The Cove Chips & Aoli
- Beer/glass of wine or softdrink

LUNCH & DINNER

Wed, Thurs & Fri

- Roast of the day with traditional accompaniments & gravy
- Beer/glass of wine or softdrink

LUNCH ONLY

\$13.90 each

The Griffith Exies Main Club Ph: (02) 6962 1211

ZUMBA® Fitness
at
Dolly Dance Academy

GRIFFITH	TUESDAY	9:30 AM Banna Ave Studio	6:30 PM Banna Ave Studio
	THURSDAY	6:00 PM Zumbatomic for KIDS	7:30 PM Banna Ave Studio
WHITTON	MONDAY	6:30 PM Whitton Hall	
	WEDNESDAY	6:30 PM Whitton Hall	
YENDA	WEDNESDAY	7:30 PM Yenda Diggers Club	
HILLSTON	TUESDAY	6:30 PM CWA Hall	

PH 0439 508 232 or 0400 334 316

Countdown
to Christmas



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WEEKS

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