

# THE TIMES

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## THE BIG MOVE



After years of planning and building, the amalgamation of the High and Tech schools will finally be complete when the High School moves to the College Drive site permanently, becoming one large school – Echuca College. If it's not too hot, students will ceremonially walk from Crofton Street to the Tech site. Classes will start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.

# Bridge studies cost \$2 million

### EXCLUSIVE

THE VicRoads investigation into the Mid-West Bridge cost roughly \$2 million in tax payer's money, a VicRoads official has revealed.

VicRoads Northern Region Manager Mal Kersting has told *The Times* that everything from the public

information displays to paying consultancies added up to \$2 million.

"This included surveys, mapping, all the things that are necessary for us to do this investigation," he said.

Mr. Kersting did not know which specialist study cost the most, saying "All the specialist studies were done

by consultancies and carried out by VicRoads, they varied on their tendered price," he said.

However the cost estimates for the actual Mid-West Bridge are still unknown, with VicRoads "still deliberating" on the issue. Speculation puts the cost at \$150 million, **Page 3>**

# Education on the move: the trouble with portables

## **INSIDE STORY**

LOOKING up, I see water dripping out from the side of the groaning air conditioner, attached to the ceiling. It begins to fall on the table in front of me, unfortunately ruining one boy's work, who'd just popped out to go to the toilet.

In the room next to us, water has dripped into the casing of a light, which slowly fills up. One day, that light bursts open and cascades water all over another kid.

This is what my first years in primary school were like. In portables. In prep, grade one, grade two, grade five and this year in year nine I have been in portable classrooms. They are not nice places to spend most of your day in for most of your year. They get stuffy in summer, cold in winter, and of course, do occasionally leak.

But the problem with these classrooms has remained mostly quiet over the years, mainly because they are just conceived as a normal part of schooling.

There is no doubt that most people have been educated in a 'dismountable' classroom at some stage in their



Some of the older portables at Echuca College.

schooling, but it is only now that the Victorian Opposition has made a fuss about it. According to freedom-of-information documents obtained by the Liberal party more than 2400 of the 7553 portables in Victoria were built over 40 years ago.

According to the documents, 79% of the 84 portables being used in the Echuca district are over 20 years old.

Of course, these classrooms may have nothing wrong with them, but it has not stopped the Opposition attacking the Government over the issue.

In Echuca, the oldest portable is said to be 47 and a half years old at the Crofton Street campus for Echuca College.

However Principal Chris Eeles is not worried because

the campus will move permanently to the College Drive campus in a matter of weeks. "I think they're (Opposition) are making a mountain out of a mole hill on this one," he said. He said that the portable that's nearly half a century old is not used by students, but is a refurbished canteen. But shadow education minister Martin Dixon is appalled by amount of old portables across the state. "Any parent would be appalled and shocked to learn of the high number of old portable classrooms in use across Victoria," he said.

As long as they've got air conditioning, portables are the same as any other classroom. Some people are just picky.

# M-W2 shot down

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as it includes large expenses like noise barriers, a geometric membrane over the sand hills and a second bridge to cross the Campaspe River, which the other Bridge options did not need included in expenses.

However as little as 6% of the community support the current Mid-West option, a poll conducted by Member for Rodney Paul Weller has found with many opting for the less destructive "Mid-West 2" option.

Over 300 web votes and 400 postal votes have flooded Mr. Weller's office, with the majority against the Bridge, but in favour of the Mid-West 2 option.

However Mr. Kersting has shot down any chances of this route being investigated, saying VicRoads have looked into it previously and found a number of issues wrong with it.

"It's in an area that has significant cultural heritage, it has a greater impact on Vic Park and vegetation removal and it created a higher level impact on flooding," he said.

*The Times* then questioned

Mal Kersting



Kersting about whether that is the same impact the Mid-West option currently has.

"The impacts are less than what the Mid West 2 might be," he responded.

On Tuesday night, the Campaspe Shire council will resolve their opinion on the Mid West Bridge, undertaking a vote that will have a significant effect on the Bridge saga.

Council voted against the Central Option in 2003, and that has since been removed as a possible alignment.

Mayor Peter Williams has declared a conflict-of-interest in the debate, and will leave the room. Eight councillors will remain, however there are no chances of a 50/50 situation, with the chair of the meeting responsible for the casting vote.

## Briefly...

### Street

- ECHUCA College Crofton Street will soon move out of their current campus to College Drive, completing the amalgamation process, which has taken years to plan. It brings to an end almost a century of students being educated at the Crofton Street site, once the Echuca High School. Classes at College Drive will start on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.

### Local

- THE Mid-West Bridge investigations cost in excess of \$2 million, *The Times* can reveal, with everything from the public display meeting to the specialist studies costing taxpayers. Northern Region Manager for VicRoads, Mal Kersting, said that everything necessary to do the investigations cost money. Cost estimates for the actual Bridge are still unknown.

### National

- MALCOLM Turnbull has outlined a plan for temporary visas for refugees as his answer to the asylum seekers issue. The plan has already come under attack from lawyers, moderates in his own party, the Greens and the Government. Turnbull still sticks by the plan for "safe haven visas."

### World

- JAPAN'S whaling fleet may face huge financial cut backs, with their new "cost-cutting" Government having plans to scrap interest-free loans, which the whaling industry relies on.



# FBI link to Cedenco pressure

THE American FBI was investigating a trust fund linked to Cedenco Foods before it was placed into receivership this week. Cedenco owns the largest tomato-processing factory in the Southern Hemisphere in Echuca, however business will continue as usual at the factory. Earlier this year, the parent company of Cedenco in America filed for bankruptcy, however that will not affect the jobs of 35 workers in Echuca. The ANZ placed KordaMentha as the receivers and managers of Cedenco Australia on Monday until the company can sort out its issues, which include a \$40 million debt owed to the ANZ. However the major shareholder of Cedenco believes that the ANZ did not have the right to call in receivers.



Sweat v Steam was a huge community event with a barbeque waiting for runners, who raced the PS Adelaide (below).



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# SPORT



Cyclists complete the final stages of the Port to Port ride at Vic Park.

## Port to Port

HUNDREDS of cyclists have celebrated the end of a gruelling 400km cycling marathon, which stretched from Mildura and finished in Vic Park last weekend. The cyclists rode through a number of national parks along the way, as well as passing through Swan Hill in the stinking heat.

## Echuca set for further victory

ECHUCA is in a prime position to take out another victory for this year's season, with a 2 day match against Bunnaloo aligning the team with a good foothold for a win.

Last weekend, Echuca bowled out Bunnaloo for 128 and continued on to score 4/97 before the end of the days play.

This weekend will be an exciting match, with Echuca eager to finish the home side off.

Bunnaloo's choice to start



batting first, may have seemed like a good decision, with the team starting strongly, however they soon began to falter. Echuca's David Edgar started off the carnage, with his dismissal for 24 in the 18<sup>th</sup> over putting the side at

1/40. Five batsmen did not even make double figures, with Simon Maddox dismissing two in two balls and Ryan Hon getting 3/22 off 10 overs.

James McQuillian collected two wickets, as did Maddox and Jason Charlile.

When the time came for Echuca to begin batting, their performance was parallel to their brilliant bowling, and this weekend they will finish it off.

# EDITORIAL

## Potential for Vic Park to be sporting capital



ECHUCA'S main conversation fulcrum is sport. Where would we be without it? Other than the weather, it's what most of us talk about. Footy, hockey, soccer and netball in the winter. Cricket, tennis and golf in the summer. It's an endless cycle, and it involves most of the community. Most of these sports are played at Victoria Park, from fire fighting carnivals to the Easter tennis tournaments – Vic Park is a congregation area for the sporting community. But the potential is there for Vic Park to expand. As of this month, the Crofton Street campus of Echuca College will be made redundant, leaving a collection of buildings (and an oval) disused. The potential for expansion is written all over the site.

There is already a gym at the site, which is regularly used as a basketball court for district competitions. And the oval adjacent to that gym is used almost weekly for the junior cricket. Endless possibilities remain for the rest of the buildings, which cover a ground of over 30,000 square metres. However, thanks to a burly Bridge, the College site is expected to be demolished to make way for, ironically, cars. And if this Bridge did go ahead, six of the tennis courts would be destroyed, and the council's proposed 'Vic Park Master Plan' would be made defunct. It's a very contentious issue within the community; however imagine the possibilities of a major sports hub, right here in Echuca.

### Apology

**To Jo and Gary Radford**

*The Times* apologises to Gary Radford, owner of Echuca's McDonalds restaurant, and his wife Jo, for a story published in this newspaper 3 weeks ago.

*The Times* apologises for misleading readers into assuming that someone had been thrown through a McDonald's window, however this was incorrect.

*The Times* was not trying to target McDonalds Echuca, rather to highlight the problems of late night violence in general.

*The Times* was in fact trying to congratulate McDonalds on its proactive stance against night time violence by discontinuing 24 hour trading.

Any disappointment caused by this article is regretted.

# OPINION

Your views, your say, your Opinion

**ODD BOX** A British man on the run from police sent a picture of himself to his local paper because he disliked the mugshot they printed. Matthew Maynard, wanted for burglary, sent a photo of himself standing in front of a police van to the South Wales Evening Post.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity.  
**Albert Einstein**

## JOKE BY JAKE

Only in America do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering...

# HOROSCOPE



ITS amazing how a year can fly by. I actually start year 10 next week and before you blink we'll be opening Christmas presents. Already the shops are putting up Christmas merchandise, with the Myer windows in Melbourne already filled with weird toys and stuff. Although I think it's still a bit early to be putting the decorations up, I don't care because Christmas decorations mean Christmas sales, and Christmas sales means things are cheaper, which is always a good thing, especially when you have to buy random things for everyone. Christmas is always a fun time, and so is New Years Eve, with the hot nights and good food, oh, and the presents!

## “Do you think the hype surrounding Tiger Woods is needed?”



**Britney Spears**

“Well, I’m here in Down Under too, if you’ve noticed...”



**Wilson Tuckey**

“Takeyourattentionaway fromhimandlookatblood yTurnbullwhosastinking (inaudible)andataallthose climatechangebelievers whoarebonkers...”



**Tiger Woods**

“Well if Channel 9’s filming me 24 hours a day, I must be kind of important, for their ratings I mean.”



## Critic's choice

### ADbc

#### SBS, 9pm Thursday

THE potential is all there, except if it wasn't for that ugly set I'd probably watch it more. *ADbc* is a new quiz show, which is less about having fun and more about answering the questions. Judith Lucy was there on the first episode to lighten things up, however even she couldn't help the show from being awkward.

### John Safrans Race Relations

#### ABC1, 9,30pm Wednesday

"THIS is kind of awkward, but I need to make out with your mum..." John Safran says to one of his ex's. I still don't know why he went out and kissed a bunch of old ladies, then went to Togo for a voodoo death ceremony, but it made for hilarious TV. The show keeps getting weirder, but it's still damn funny.

### Addicted to Money

#### ABC1, 8.35pm Thursday

THIS show talks in trillions of dollars, not millions, but trillions. It's hard to imagine so much money, but *Addicted to Money* teaches us some interesting facts. Like the entire world's savings is more than the whole world spends in an entire year. It's a good show, perhaps a little boring. But I'm sure the accountants watching enjoy it.

## "Dead Set scary"

OUT of all the horror movies I've watched, the ones with zombies in them scare me the most. They are repulsive, especially the graphic new movies, where everything looks grotesquely real. *28 Days Later*, *I am Legend*, *Dawn of the Dead* to name a few are petrifying films about the living dead.

However it was very thoughtful of SBS to start screening a TV series of much the same genre. It's called *Dead Set*, and it combines two of my most hated things: zombies and *Big Brother*. The show is set around the *Big Brother* house in Britain, on eviction night, and everyone is excited about who will leave the house.

However halfway through, an outbreak of some disease reaches the crowds of fans and they quite naturally start eating each other alive.

"That's the public for you, innit," one housemate says to the other, listening to the shouts from the audience outside. "They're animals."

However what they're hearing is the crowd being eaten alive. Gross...

A female worker at the TV station survives, after barricading herself in an office room. However to escape she must stab a few zombies to get free. She makes it past a particularly vicious zombie before finding herself in the *Big Brother* house. The housemates still think they're on TV, so they act as though it's a big publicity stunt. Of course, they're dead wrong (pardon the pun), and it's not to long before a zombie gets into the house and starts attacking them. Luckily the female worker is there to smash their heads in with a fire hydrant. So if you're into this horrific cannibalistic violence, then tune into SBS on Monday at 10pm.

