

Cup carnival looks a winner



SPOKES-MEN: Tyson Blackney and Richard Breisch have been cycling around the CBD promoting the cup carnival.

Picture: Stuart Quinn

By Amy Marshall

THE track is green, the marquees assembled, silks ironed, frocks and fascinators fitted.

Thousands are expected at Sandilong Park this weekend for what will be the biggest Mildura Cup Carnival ever.

For the first time the carnival will be held on Saturday as well as Sunday – a day focussing on families.

There will be seven races on Saturday and nine on Sunday including the \$50,000 Markwells Sunraysia Toyota Cup and two \$20,000 handicap races.

But the fashion, glamour and excitement has already started. About 40 ladies enjoyed a “high tea” in the rose garden at the Mildura Grand on Tuesday afternoon.

Tickets are also still available for the Carnival Cup eve cocktail party at the Mildura Brewery on Saturday night.

Children will also be

able to join in the carnival atmosphere on Sunday with the new playground at the track, pony rides, jumping castle and other entertainment.

There will be two Dorothy the Dinosaur shows at 12.45pm and 2.30pm.

Adam Kelly, group club manager of Murray Mallee Racing, said he was hoping for a crowd of more than 2000 on Sunday but Saturday was an “unknown”.

“Crowd-wise our Melbourne Cup event at Mildura is bigger but as far as the club is concerned, this is the biggest event of the year,” Mr Kelly said.

“It’s a huge opportunity to showcase our track and the high-quality racing.”

More than 80 nominations have been received across the seven races scheduled for Saturday and more than 150 for Sunday.

No locally-trained horses have nominated

for Sunday’s \$50,000 main event but last year’s winner, Diamonds at Dawn, has been put forward.

Almost all marquee tickets have been sold with just a handful available for the Gold Cup marquee.

Two people who rode into town this week for the carnival are Spoke Motion’s Richard Breisch and Tyson Blackney.

The Geelong pair, who have made their quirky marketing idea a full-time job, have been cycling around the CBD on their three-wheeled bikes mounted with a cup carnival advertising billboard.

Even a hiccup with VicRoads couldn’t dampen their sense of fun with the pair being among the thousands looking forward to some beautiful late autumn weather for the racing event.

The bureau has forecast a sunny 20 for Saturday and 22 for Sunday. Gates open at 11am.

Water to stay as is

Wentworth rejects fluoride

Nat Cavallaro

WENTWORTH’S water supply will not be fluoridated.

Wentworth Shire Council decided at its meeting yesterday to reject the proposal.

Cr Susan Nichols put forward the motion against fluoridating the water.

Cr Sheree Ribirits seconded the motion and all councillors voted in favour except Cr Bill Wheeldon.

Cr Nichols said: “I don’t think we should fluoridate the water. Let the government do it and they can foot the cost.”

Wentworth Council first discussed fluoridation in September 2007 when councillors asked for a report on the cost of fluoridating the water put then at \$41,6000.

Actual construction costs would probably be more because of the small size of the treatment plant and the remote location.

The Department of Health visited Wentworth last year and recommended fluoridating the water.

Mayor Margaret Thompson said since raising the issue last year, the only people who were vocal were those opposed to treating the water.

She said council would not impose fluoridation on ratepayers if they did not want it.

Arson ruled out

POLICE have ruled out arson as the cause of two recent Euston shed fires.

Investigators say the blazes, 3km and two weeks apart, were caused by an electrical fault.

“As a result of forensic examinations of both locations the preliminary finding was that an electrical fault was most likely responsible for both fires,” Det-Sgt Tom Barnes, of Deniliquin police, said.

“The fires are not believed to have been linked.

“There was no connection other than geographic location and time which was initially a cause for concern and an indication for further inquiry.

“At this stage arson is not the cause.”

Det-Sgt Barnes said there was a need to reassure the public.

“We are aware that it was a matter of concern to the community – the fact that the time and location were in close proximity and they were grape industry sheds. There is no need for such concern.”

The blazes caused damage worth almost \$4 million

The first fire broke out on April 30 at Costa Crest Grape House on Kilpatrick Road and the second blaze destroyed a shed belonging to Joe Lanteri on Brett Road, just 3 km from Costas.