

Move is first big challenge

By Gus McCubbing

Goulburn Options has a new chief executive officer and her first major goal is enabling the organisation's closer integration with the Seymour community.

Rosey Panelly, who has previously managed the Seymour Medical Clinic and has a strong background in epilepsy research, took over the reins at Goulburn Options of the sudden passing of the group's former CEO.

“I was to take on the role of interim CEO ... and having had several months to get to know the team and the participants, I could see what a fantastic organisation it is, so it was really easy to say ‘yes’ when they asked me to stay on as the permanent CEO,” she said.

Goulburn Options will soon move from Delatite Rd to High St, something Ms Panelly said will be beneficial to everyone.

“Goulburn Options is an important contributor to the Seymour community and economy, because we have around 30 staff, and most of them are Seymour and surrounds locals — so it’s

quite an important business in the area,” she said.

“I think most people these days appreciate that it’s possible and desirable for people with a disability to have every opportunity to participate in the community ... and I think people will be pleased and interested to see that we’re moving our centre into the town. The businesses and people of Seymour are really supportive of Goulburn Options.

“This has been a wonderful place for 20 years or so ... but we do a lot of travelling to take people into the community, and it would just be so much more natural to be based in the community. The building is really large and it’s going to give us the opportunity to do new things ... we also like the idea of the centre developing as a community hub.”

The next big challenge for Goulburn Options, Ms Panelly said, will be navigating the local rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in January.

“We have some participants who have been early transfers to the NDIS, so we already have our



New blood: Bob Edwards with Rosey Panelly, the new chief executive officer at Goulburn Options.

toe in the water and some understanding of that ... but there’s a really important role for us to play in supporting families as

they prepare to transition across to the NDIS,” she said.

“It’s unfamiliar to them and somewhat intimidating, so we’re

going to have to spend a lot of time this year working with families to help them prepare to engage with the NDIS.”

Apprentice wins

A Tallarook local has taken out the inaugural Shell Rimula apprentice of the year award, part of a newly formed partnership between Viva Energy and the KANGAN Institute to help train the next generation of Australian automotive and heavy duty diesel technicians.

Bradley Williams, of Winslow Construction, was selected by the judges as the student who demonstrated the best attitude, attendance, performance and aptitude throughout his apprenticeship.

In recognition of his efforts Bradley received a \$500 Shell Coles Express gift card and will also get to enjoy a weekend with the Shell V-Power Racing Team at the Sandown 500 in September.

Mr Williams said he was over the moon about winning the award and having the chance to



Presentation: Bradley Williams (centre) of Winslow Constructors wins Shell Rimula Apprentice of the Year award, with Viva Energy's Nick Lubransky (left) and Rob Cavicchioli (right).

get up close and personal with Shell racing team.

“The training provided by KANGAN has provided me with the skills to add real value in the workshop,” he said.

“Having Viva Energy and the Shell brand on board is a real bonus as we get to learn from the industry leaders. I would also like to thank Winslow for believing in me and for all their support through my apprenticeship.

“The experience I’ve had over the last couple of years means I can really hit the ground running.”

Army's rich history celebrated

By Gus McCubbing

There was a 117th birthday party held in Puckapunyal last Thursday morning, but it wasn’t for an incredibly old retiree.

The Australian Army was established on March 1, 1901, and the men and women at the Puckapunyal Military Area celebrated their organisation’s birthday with some cake over a morning tea together.

Sergeant Jim Hallam made a toast and said the army had a proud history with traditions that continue to this day.

“We’ve been tried and tested in battle many times, and on the world stage we have been consistently compared and rivalled by others,” he said.

“At 117 years old, we are a young army compared to many, but we have a rich history that all of us are proud to have taken part in.”

Colonel Dick Parker said those at Puckapunyal like to recognise the connection between the army’s birthday and the foundation of the Commonwealth back in 1901.

“The interesting thing is that the Australian Army was actually formed a couple of months after federation,” he said.

“It was part of that process where Australia was still setting itself up as a country ... and yet we had soldiers overseas on oper-

ations in South Africa at the same time. The Australian Army really formed itself from the combination of a number of regiments that were based in each state ... and they all came under the Commonwealth. So we like to celebrate the fact we came together from all the different states of Australia to form one army ... and the fact we’ve been serving the country ever since.”

Beyond sharing a close birth date, Colonel Parker said the Australian Army also played a formative role in the spiritual development of the Commonwealth.

“I think Australia was looking for that one thing to classify it as a single nation ... and Gallipoli came along,” he said.

“It was the first action that we were involved in on that sort of scale and we had the opportunity to prove the character of the Australian soldier in that setting. So the character of the Australian soldier ... and from that the way the world looks at Australia, came



Occasion: Lance Corporal Samantha Mannion and Corporal Tommy Miller-Delaney help Colonel Dick Parker cut the birthday cake.

from that particular campaign, where they saw the hardships that people put up with, and yet the incredible bravery that was exhibited.”

Regimental Sergeant Major Ian D’Arcy said due to the nation’s relatively small population, he thinks most families in Australia either know someone or have someone who has been directly involved in operational commitments.

“That’s allowed our culture to be woven into the fabric of Australian culture as well, so it’s a close bond that’s been formed with families, communities and the army.”

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