

Girls' day out

THE Cardigan Village Community Centre will host a fundraising girls' day out on Sunday.

The event consists of a party plan afternoon, with sites including The Book Shop @ Her Majesty's Theatre, Creative Arts and...

All proceeds towards the community centre, located at Mitchell Drive, Cardigan Village.

Doors open at midday with sales until 4pm.

Entry is by gold coin donation.

Correction

A STORY on the Arts Connect page on Tuesday incorrectly showed a picture of Adam Brand to advertise a performance by Adam Harvey and Becca Cole.

The performance on August 6 at Her Majesty's Theatre will feature Adam Harvey and Becca Cole.

Stage set for a show 119 years in the making



READY: Royal South Street Society marketing manager Emma Sbardella with South Street staff Lizzy Jones and Linda Kinnersly. Picture: **Jeremy Bannister**

DANCERS, actors, artists and performers from far and wide will take the stage when the Royal South Street Competition starts next week.

Celebrating 119 years, the competition promises to be as jam-packed and entertaining as previous years.

Ballarat will play host to around 10,000 participants making 40,000 on-stage appearances.

Royal South Street Society marketing manager Emma Sbardella said the three months of competition would see a wide range of performances to suit all tastes.

"It's very entertaining and you don't get that anywhere else," Ms Sbardella said.

"There's always something new, always something different and always something for everyone."

Ms Sbardella said the event attracted an estimated \$15 million towards the city.

"It's the oldest eisteddfod in Australia, the longest running and the largest," she said.

South Street will kick off with debating from 9.30am on Monday.

Daily timetables and results can be seen on the website royalsouthstreet.com.au.

The Royal South Street Society was founded in 1879.

Liberal deputy here today to tackle mental health

DEPUTY Opposition Leader Julie Bishop will visit Ballarat today to launch the Coalition's policy on mental health.

Liberal candidate for Ballarat Mark Banwell said the city would benefit from the Coalition's initiative.

"As one of the key components of our action plan, we will set on the growing problem of mental illness, which affects more Australians than almost all other health disorders, particularly our young people," he said.



Julie Bishop

Ms Bishop and Mr Banwell will meet with St John of God chief executive officer John Fogarty at the hospital to discuss plans for the hospitals' mental health services.

She will also visit

Ascet House for Mr Banwell's official campaign launch, and the Ballan District Health and Care Hospital.

"Mental health has been neglected by Labor in Ballarat for far too long," Mr Banwell said.

The Coalition's nationwide plan includes \$440 million for 20 early psychosis intervention centres, \$832 million towards 800 mental health beds and \$225 million for 60 additional youth headspace sites.

Mum's 'hellish' life led to drugs

A 39-YEAR-OLD woman charged with the possession of amphetamines told police the reason for her drug use was that her life was one of pure hell.

Joanne Welsh, of Creswick, pleaded guilty to four charges including possession of amphetamines, possession of cannabis and cultivation of cannabis in an earlier session of Ballarat Magistrates Court.

Police prosecutor Leading Senior Constable Clint Prebble told the court that in April this year police attended Welsh's home address after a report of a domestic dispute.

When police arrived Welsh was seen concealing a jar of amphetamines in a car he said.

A further search revealed a small amount of cannabis and six cannabis plants in pots.

Welsh was taken to the Creswick police station where she told police she used drugs because her life was pure hell.

These are serious offences particularly with young children in the house.

Defence lawyer David Tamanika said the last six years had been a difficult time for his client with a messy divorce and becoming the sole parent to two children.

He told the court his client had been suffering depression and stress and had come to depend on her mother.

In 2004 her mother died suddenly, exacerbating her slide into depression.

He argued his client used cannabis to help her sleep but only after her children had gone to bed.

Welsh, he said, had chosen to

cultivate her own cannabis as she was uncomfortable sourcing and buying the drug.

Mr Tamanika told the court Welsh had a cousin staying with her at the time of her arrest who had bought the amphetamines into the house.

He said when the police arrived his client had panicked and tried to hide the drugs even though they were not hers.

"These are serious offences particularly with young children in the house," magistrate Kay Robertson said.

"It seems you now have to make a decision whether to take responsibility for your drug use and take what help in on offer."

Ms Robertson said it seemed Welsh had already started to take responsibility and was seeking help.

She sentenced Welsh to a six-month community based order with conviction.

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