



# Two-way traffic may go from part of Main Road Bakery Hill revamp plan

By **FIONA HENDERSON**

A BAKERY Hill revamp could see part of Main Road closed to two-way traffic.

A plaza, alfresco dining areas and ornamental lighting are also being considered under a draft Ballarat City Council plan to overhaul the maligned CBD entrance.

The proposal will be unveiled at council's meeting tomorrow night.

Ballarat mayor Craig Fletcher said Bakery Hill was

a priority project.

"Following on from community consultation conducted during the development of the CBD Strategy, it was clear that a more appealing and welcoming entrance to Ballarat was required," Cr Fletcher said.

"If endorsed by council, this conversation will recommence as we work with the community to create an entrance to Ballarat's CBD that befits a regional capital."

Under the plan, Main Road



could be reduced to one-way, north-bound traffic between Humffray Street and Little Bridge Street.

A report to council said this

would allow for angle parking on the east side of Main Road and better footpaths on the western side to cater for "increased dining options for the venues currently operating".

If approved, the existing car parking and rotunda on Bakery Hill will also be removed and replaced with an open square plaza featuring open grassed areas, trees, street furniture, ornamental lighting and dining areas.

The car parking will be

moved to the lower section of Little Bridge Street, with an overall increase of three extra spaces.

Cr Fletcher said the proposed changes would create a strong visual line of sight from Bakery Hill through to Sturt Street.

"All stakeholders in the area will be invited to meet with council officers on a one-to-one basis to discuss the proposal and how it might impact on their business."

He said community

consultation would also be undertaken.

If approved, the Bakery Hill Plaza and car parking in Bridge Street and Little Bridge Street will be undertaken this financial year, while the Curtis Street precinct, Main Road and the Laneway will be done in 2012-13.

The concept plans will be available on Ballarat City Council's website from Thursday.

## Piece of history reopens

SKIPTON'S historic court house and police residence were reopened yesterday, following the completion of restorations and repairs following recent floods.

The buildings, home to the Skipton Historical Society museum, will now be officially leased to the society by the owner — philanthropic organisation Mint Inc.

"Mud, water and rubbish flooded through both buildings and only the quick action of the historical society members saved the paper-based collection," Mint Inc executive officer Dr Jan Penney said.

Upgrades as part of the flood recovery included painting, new floorboards and a stainless steel kitchen.



**OPEN AGAIN:** Skipton Historical Society president Dawn Clarke and Mint Inc executive officer Dr Jan Penney celebrate the reopening of the historic court house and police residence. Picture: **Dominic O'Brien**

## Victoria Cross medal goes up for auction

THE family of World War II hero Ted Kenna say they have mixed emotions about putting his Victoria Cross up for auction.

Kenna's medal, earned for single-handedly taking out a Japanese machine gun post, will be the first WWII VC to be sold publicly.

The VC is the centrepiece in a 10-medal collection estimated to be worth \$900,000.

His son Rob Kenna says he and his siblings were honouring their father's wish in selling the medal but he admits to "mixed feelings".

"If you let it go down through another generation or two who knows what would happen," he said.

"At least we've got a feel for the medal and



Ted Kenna

the immediate family will benefit from it, as dad would have wanted."

Private Kenna's exploits in Papua New Guinea on May 15, 1945 are among the most famous in Australia's list of VC winners. With his platoon pinned down by heavy machine gun fire he stood in full view of the enemy less than 50 metres away, firing a Bren gun from the hip. Return

fire sailed between his arms and body.

Undeterred, he fired on the post until his magazine was exhausted, before seizing a second rifle and shooting dead the enemy gunner with his first round.

He then killed an enemy trying to move into position behind the machine gun with his second shot.

Rob Kenna said his father, who died in 2009 aged 90, rarely spoke of his war feats.

"VCs take it as their natural instinct to react the way they do and generally if you study what they do it doesn't just happen once, it happens time and time again," Mr Kenna said.

The auction will be held in Melbourne on Thursday.

## TALKING POINT Ministers hold Twitter meeting

ACT government ministers will answer the community's questions via Twitter in an Australian first.

Chief Minister Katy Gallagher and three ministers will hold a community cabinet meeting from 12.30pm today, but unlike similar such meetings there won't be any citizens with them in the room.

Ms Gallagher says the virtual community cabinet is the first of its kind in Australia.

She is encouraging the Canberra community to take part by asking questions through the social network website using the identifying hashtag #actvc.

The ministers will follow the conversation on a large screen in their cabinet room and reply to questions on their own laptops.

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