



Julie Zammit and Cheryl McIver both of Red Cliffs with Pat Hayes of Mildura.
Pictures: Louise Donges



Enjoying a catch up are friends Laura Fisher and Cheryl Stevenson both of Mildura.



Margaret Anset and Phyllis Arnold both of Mildura.

Seniors Week kicks off

A WEEK-LONG celebration of seniors throughout the region kicked off yesterday with an opening day lunch, play reading, singing and a paddleboat cruise.

Activities continue today with a tour of the Mildura Eco Village and walking group session at Mildura Central in conjunction with Sunraysia Community Health Services (SCHS).

SCHS also has a program of activities including Tai Chi sessions, Nordic walking

events or Falls and Balance classes as well as tours of its facility and exhibitions planned.

A walking group session will be held at 7.45am today at Mildura Central Shopping Centre as well as at the same time on Thursday.

There are also come and try classes at SCHS on Thursday from 1pm, which consist of Tai Chi between 1pm and 3pm, Falls and Balance from 1.30pm and 3.30pm and Nordic walking at 2pm.



Robyn Reid of Gol Gol with Sandy Blim, Glenda Ritchie and Maureen Smith all of Mildura.



Leah Endrizzi of Uniting AgeWell, Barbara Beck of Mildura and Michelle Knights of Uniting AgeWell.

Bupa nurses continue action

BUPA Mildura nurses and carers will stop work from 7am tomorrow as part of a second wave of protected industrial action, along with eight other Bupa nursing homes across Victoria.

Mildura workers wore campaign t-shirts and handed out materials to the community last week as part of the ongoing campaign for improved staffing levels, skill mix and better wages and conditions.

Nurses and carers will continue this action along with 25 other Victorian Bupa facilities.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) said workers were campaigning for wages that match industry stand-

ard rates paid at Bupa's competitors, including BlueCross and Arcare.

"Bupa nurses and carers are escalating their action to ensure Victorians understand the stress, the difficulties and the reality of missed care when patient workloads are too high," ANMF Victorian secretary Lisa Fitzpatrick said.

"Nurses and carers will be reluctantly stopping work and will ensure this action does not affect the health or welfare of the people in their care."



Workers campaigning outside Bupa Mildura.

"If they do nothing Bupa will cut nursing positions and staffing levels will be even lower."

"Bupa is currently consulting with a small number of managers across our homes about proposed changes to the clinical manage-

ment structure," Ms Berry said. "The proposal is to create new role of clinical care manager by consolidating existing clinical manager and care manager roles. "On the separate matter of our wage negotiations with our Victorian workforce, we continue to negotiate in good faith with the Unions. Our latest offer include an 11.25 per cent wage increase over three years, and protection of penalty rates including weekend loadings. The ANMF doesn't accept this offer."

An ANMF spokeswoman yesterday said it would only recommend to workers an offer that also addressed workloads and resident care



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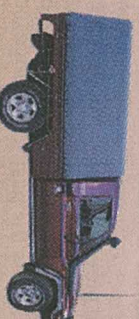
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