

Ian Ryan Animal Education Centre

By ALEX CRAIG

THE recent celebrations at the newly-named Outdoor School Bogong included the opening of the new Ian Ryan Animal Education Centre, which is a specific component of the Kiewa Discovery Centre, and will educate students about a number of different types of animals.

Currently the centre houses several lizards and snakes, and there are plans for the future accommodation of pygmy possums and sugar gliders.

Julie Ryan, widow of the late Ian Ryan, was present to formally open the newly constructed building.

Mr Ryan was a staff member at the Outdoor School (then the Bogong School Camp) during the 1990s, and was instrumental in setting up the original environmental centre.

Unfortunately he died suddenly of a heart attack in 1999, immediately following his



EDUCATIONAL: Animal keeper Jarrod Payne and Julie Ryan, who opened the Ian Ryan Animal Education Centre, make the acquaintance of two of the resident lizards.

participation in the Kangaroo Hoppet.

Mrs Ryan said the school had immediately decided to call the environment centre after him, and his name has now been transferred to the new Animal Education Centre.

At the opening, Mrs Ryan talked about her late hus-

band's dedication to his work as a teacher, particularly when it came to the natural environment and all that was in it.

"He was a highly valued staff member, and sorely missed," she said.

"I was honored to be involved in the naming and opening of the centre."