



Julie Ryan and Roger Blackwell opening the Ian Ryan Animal Education Centre. Pic - Courtesy The Outdoor School.

The Outdoor School

There has been quite a bit happening at the Outdoor School - Bogong in the last few months. This paper enjoys the opportunity to bring you all the good news.

Julie Ryan, wife of the late Ian Ryan was able to formally open the newly constructed Ian Ryan Animal Education Centre (IRAEC). The IRAEC is a specific component of the Kiewa Discovery Centre that will educate students about a number of different types of animals.

Ian, a much loved staff member of the then Bogong School Camp and Bogong Outdoor Education Centre, was the Enviro coordinator for the school and had a real passion for the education of students about and in the outdoors.

Julie talked about Ian's dedication to his work as a teacher, particularly when it came to the natural environment. At the conclusion of Julie's speech she cut the ribbon to formally open the Ian Ryan Animal Education Centre. •

The team at the Outdoor School also took the opportunity to acknowledge one of its long serving teaching staff, Russell Bellingham. Russ had



Russell Bellingham, recognised for his 40 years of service, with wife Anne and school principal Tony Keeble. Pic - Courtesy Outdoor School.

been formally recognised for this achievement at a department level, and as a school the staff felt that they would like to honour his achievement at a community level as well.

In Russ' 40 year career as a teacher he has spent 32 years being an integral part of the Bogong School Camp, Bogong Outdoor Education Centre and the Outdoor School community.

Russ continues to be an exemplary teacher for the Outdoor School and his vast experience has provided outstanding learning opportunities to over ten thousand students.

Congratulations to Russ on his 40 years of service to the Victorian Education Department, and we wish you all the best for your teaching future at Bogong. •

On Wednesday 18th of March Bogong Outdoor Education Centre formally celebrated its change in name to Outdoor School - Bogong.

Outdoor School has two campuses, one at Bogong Village and the other at 15 Mile Creek, 20 minutes East South East of Benalla on the Benalla Whitfield Road.

Over its time as an Education facility, Outdoor School has had two other names,

the first being Bogong School Camp and the second Bogong Outdoor Education Centre.

The name change process took at least three years and has involved open community consultation.

John Pryor as the Education Departments representative along with Ben Derrick as the current School Board president both said some kind words about the school and then revealed the new school name at the front gate.

Along with the celebration of the new name, the school also officially opened its new Kiewa Discovery Centre.

This educational space has had a focus of teaching and learning injected into the overall design of the building.

The building has recently won an educational design award and has been nominated for a Master Builders construction award.

The committee who worked on the project provided the gathering with an account of how the building came to be.

From here committee member Jarrod Paine cut the ribbon to officially open the new learning space. •