

Sisters Paige, 4, and Olivia Lenehan, 5, of Warrnambool, enjoy a cool shake after a visit to the face-painter.

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 Picture: ROB GUNSTONE



Cheesy grins as kids lap up the fun

ALLANSFORD
 By **MATTHEW O'TOOLE**

THERE were plenty of smiles to be seen at the Allansford Cheese World Kids' Fun Day yesterday. The third annual event was an opportunity for children to learn about the dairy industry while having some fun, Cheese World's marketing and promotions officer Kim Kavanagh said.

There was puppet making, dairy-themed showbags and much more on offer — with face painting particularly popular. "We tried to encourage farm animals for the face painting but it didn't always happen," Ms Kavanagh said. A number of Deakin University teacher trainees assisted on the day with activities. Ms Kavanagh was rapt

with the turnout, saying a good mix of locals and tourists meant the demand for showbags outstripped supply at one point. "It's simple and easy enough for us to cope with. It's not like we're going to try and be Fun 4 Kids," she joked. Members of the Warrnambool and District Historical Vehicle Club, who help maintain a motor museum at Cheese World,

had a number of vintage vehicles on show. Boyce Norton, 77, brought along his 1922 Guy Truck that used to haul dairy products in Port Fairy. He hopes the old-time vehicles left a mark on the visiting children. "It'd be great if the kids a few years down the track said 'remember that old man in Warrnambool that let us go in his truck?'" he said.

Mayoral allowance a nice little earner

WARRNAMBOOL
 By **MATT NEAL**

WARRNAMBOOL'S mayoral allowance is more than the average annual wage for a mechanic or a teacher. Councillors at this week's Warrnambool City Council meeting voted to fix the remuneration for mayor Michael Neoh at \$69,325, "plus super-annuation equivalent". According to 2012 figures from Mycareer.com.au, this allowance is higher than the average wage for people working in the education and training sector (\$64,826) and the automotive industry (\$66,569). It's also higher than the average annual wage in admin/office support (\$55,016), community/sport/leisure (\$66,992), customer service/call centre (\$54,847), hospitality/travel/tourism (\$53,480) and retail (\$57,844). Councillors also voted in the same motion to set the allowance for themselves at \$22,405. Both figures are the maximum allowed for "category 2 councils" by the state minister for local government. Cr Peter Hulin was the only councillor who voted against setting the allowances, saying "I don't think any of us should get paid" and

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referring to a previous matter on the council agenda where attempts to move a motion about the Wilma Wright were short-circuited. Cr Kylie Gaston said she couldn't afford to be councillor without the remuneration. "The allowance allows me to serve on council," she said. "I certainly didn't run for council for the money and I'm sure none of the other councillors did." Speaking after the meeting, Cr Neoh said it was up to councillors whether they took the allowance. "The allowance (can take) away any barriers to current and future councillors," he said. "Some councillors may forgo employment opportunities to serve or while serving on council. "I was lucky to be able to go part-time (in my employment) to focus on my mayoral duties," Cr Neoh said by way of example. "But if councillors don't want to take it they can write to the chief executive officer and say they don't want it." mneal@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Persuade Plibersek, PM urged

Cancer campaigners' plea to Gillard

WARRNAMBOOL
 By **SEAN MCCOMISH**

PRIME Minister Julia Gillard is being urged to get Health Minister Tanya Plibersek to listen to pleas for a south-west integrated cancer centre. A week after the health minister snubbed a meeting request, the Warrnambool-based Peter's Project is going over Ms Plibersek's head as it ramps up the widely-supported campaign. A three-page letter bound for Canberra calls on Ms Gillard to reverse the meeting knock-back made by the department of health, which sparked outrage among Peter's Project supporters. The snub was also backed last week by Labor's Corangamite MP Darren Cheeseman, who pointed to an empty health coffer known as the health and hospital fund (HHF) used by the federal government to fund one-off projects.



Peter's Project founder Vicki Jellie said the group would continue banging on doors in Canberra until its case was heard. "The plan is to put forward to Julia Gillard how disappointed we were that we were not considered for a meeting," Ms Jellie said. "We know that the health and hospital fund is done but we want to discuss how we can go on without that." Last year the state Liberal/National government with the support of South West Healthcare, where the centre would be based, applied to the HHF but was turned down. South West Healthcare chief executive officer John Krygger said the hospital was still pursuing cash outside the funding stream. "We believe that we have a

compelling enough case that the residents of south-west Victoria are disadvantaged," Mr Krygger said. "I understand that the Commonwealth has no plans to convene the HFF round." Ms Jellie vowed to continue the campaign path to Canberra even if the government delivered another blow. "We're hoping for a positive response to get a meeting," she said. Supporters will also step up pressure on the federal Coalition to make a commitment to the centre. Member for Wannon Dan Tehan and Coalition health spokesman Peter Dutton have verbally supported the campaign but are yet to announce a formal policy promising to fund the centre. Ms Plibersek was unavailable for comment yesterday. s.mccomish@fairfaxmedia.com.au

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