

Firms suit up for ultimate battle

By AMY CLYNE

IT'S one month into the Clash of the Suits and time for a snapshot of who is providing the real competition this year.

The Clash of the Suits competition is run by the Bendigo Donor Centre and aims to boost donor numbers during winter, when many regular donors fall ill with coughs and colds.

Local accounting, real estate and law firms compete against each other to donate the most blood and be crowned Bendigo's "supreme life saving group".

Perhaps a little masochistic by nature, or possibly just good with numbers, after a month of competition it's the accountants who have a clear lead.



The accounting firms have made a total of 32 donations in just 30 days.

AFS and Associates are leading the way in terms of individual business donations; they are currently sitting on 19.

Ellinghaus Weill is holding up their industry, having made 11 of the 16 donations given by law firms.

But lawyers still trail a distant third and are sitting on 23 donations.

In equal fourth place, Lara Taylor from Strategem is pleased their leg work at the accounting firm is paying off. "It's been hard lately with



IN THE FIGHT: The Strategem team is pleased their leg work is paying off for the battle.

everyone getting sick," she admitted.

"But we have a group of regular donors that have already gone in once, and will

be going in again before the end of October."

It's not too late for companies to register to support their industry in the race to

become Bendigo's supreme life saving group.

To registers, phone Kath Hansford at the Bendigo Donor Centre on 5445 130.

Diggings

Seniors sought for Vic awards

NOMINATIONS for this year's Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year are now open.

Minister for Senior Victorians Lisa Neville is urging community members to put forward names of seniors who have worked to make a difference in their community.

Nominees are also eligible for the Council on the Ageing Victoria Senior Achiever Awards and the Go for your Life award.

Nominations close on August 10 and nomination forms can be obtained from Seniors Information Victoria, free call 1300 135 090, or at www.seniors.vic.gov.au

Cut the footprint

BUSINESS owners and residents can find out how to reduce their environmental footprint at sessions on reducing carbon emissions at Castlemaine Continuing Education Centre.

The Footprints 2 Sustainability sessions are a joint effort with Mount Alexander Council and start this month, continuing until September.

Mount Alexander Council has committed to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent in two years.

The sessions will include sustainable business development and carbon neutral training for events volunteers.

For information and bookings, phone 5472 3299 or email info@cont-ed.com.au for a program.

Local film puts actor's portrayal to a vote

By AMY CLYNE

ACTOR Lee Mason took method acting to a new level when his portrayal of Independent candidate Marty Browning had people voting for him in a real election.

The character is the star of the film *The Independent*, which was co-written and directed by former Heathcote boy Andrew O'Keefe.

It was filmed during the lead up to the 2006 election and some people must have agreed with his policies.

"There were 16 votes for the Independent Marty Browning, that we know of," he said.

"It was actually a little frustrating, because here we were making a film about how important it is to vote, and people have just thrown theirs away."

Co-writer/director John Studley said that after two years of writing they landed a stroke of luck when it came time to shoot.

"Filming during the election was very advantageous because we sent Marty out on the street and he just talked to people," he said.

"People were actually really responsive. We went door knocking as well and one woman used up a whole hour of footage!"

The film follows Marty, a former farm boy, on a mission to get elected before he loses his house.

"Politics is the backdrop of the film but it's an underdog story more than anything else," Mr Studley said.

Aside from the satirical jabs at the media and politics, the story touches on the issues of drought and suicide.

The film opens at the Star Cinema on Friday, August 22 at 7.30pm.

Both writers, as well as lead actor Lee Mason and other cast members, will be present at the premiere to host a question and answer session following the film.

For more information, phone the Star Cinema on 5446 2025.



BOX OFFICE: Andrew O'Keefe and John Studley look forward to the opening of their new film *The Independent* at the Star Cinema.

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