

# The Area News

2005 AND 2006 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



GRIFFITH'S OWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1923

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007

Price \$1.20 Inc GST

## SET FOR LIFE

### Young mum picks up \$600,000 in scratchie

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## LEAGUE FEAST

### Hot on-field action at Group 20 knockout

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# MARCHING ON

## Griffith's new shopping plaza ahead of schedule

GRIFFITH Central shopping plaza could be open within months as construction steams ahead of schedule and tenants continue to sign on.

Four more national retailers - Chemist Warehouse, Flight Centre, Fonezone and Man to Man - have confirmed they will trade at the \$60 million Yambil Street centre.

Developers The Peninsula Group told *The Area News* each of the 30 specialty shops were currently either signed or committed to.

"There's been enormous interest from prospective tenants and we aim to have the centre fully-leased for opening," Peninsula CEO Simon Morris said.

"The building is running well ahead of schedule and we are very excited."

The centre has an official opening date of November this year, but Mr Morris said it was likely to open "significantly earlier than that".

He said a revised opening date would be known within weeks.

He would not be drawn on rumours a number of tenants from Griffin Plaza had already signed at Griffith Central.

"The people of Griffith will have never experienced a centre of this magnitude in the city and we're confident they won't again," Mr Morris said.

"It's a positive sign that new national retailers are prepared to make the move into a market they haven't been into before.

"It's a great outcome for the community."

The centre will have a full-line Target, Supa IGA supermarket, two mini-major department stores, a 200-plus seating food court, kiosks and 30 specialty stores and a carpark for over 500 cars.



THE new Griffith Central shopping plaza is nearing completion, with developers expecting it be open within months. INSET: An artist's impression of how the finished product will look.

## INSIDE

### Piccoli wins

ADRIAN Piccoli has accused his opponents of running a "cynical and negative" campaign in the lead up to Saturday's ballot for the seat of Murrumbidgee, which he won comfortably.

The Nationals member accused his rivals of grubby personal attacks during the campaign and admitted it took a personal toll on him.

Meanwhile, Labor candidate Michael Kidd said a small swing to Labor in the poll showed the electorate was tiring of Mr Piccoli's style.

He said it proved the sitting member was "not as popular as he might think".

● Full story: Page 3

### Officer pleads

A FORMER Griffith police constable pleaded guilty to child sex charges at a Sydney court on Thursday.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested on February 24 last year amid claims he sexually assaulted an under-age girl.

Following fears an impartial jury could not be found in Griffith, the trial was moved to Sydney.

The man's sentencing hearing will begin at Sydney District Court on Friday.

● Full story: Page 5

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