

DINING
in your
local region
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Be
ROAD **READY**
THIS WINTER
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FOOTY & NETBALL LIFTOUT
FULL COVERAGE
RESULTS INSIDE



Buckets of support

Sam James

ON A rare sunny winter day, eight staff and students went under the ice-cold buckets for the Big Freeze at Kerang Christian College.

As part of the school's Kerang Bring on Optimistic Moments (KerBOOM) initiative to create fun and exciting experiences, KCC donned their beanies for a day and raised \$103 for FightMND.

The student body nominated four staff, Nathanael Ottosson, Rachel Lowe, Lance Davidson and Maddy Powers, who in turn nominated four students, Brodie Curran, Riley D'Silva, Indi Millard and Archer Wattingham to brave the freezing cold challenge at lunchtime on Monday.

"The event was about bringing awareness about the FightMND campaign and having fun in our school community," Mr Davidson said.

"The students wore their beanies and scarves, and we had a water balloon challenge at the beginning of the day so the whole student body could join in on the fun with water."

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INSET: Nathanael Ottosson, Brodie Curran and principal Lance Davidson braved the challenge.

CRISIS DEEPENS

Louis Harrison

AS the cost of everyday essentials continues to climb, Gannawarra Shire residents are feeling the strain on household budgets.

Rising prices are reshaping daily life across

the region, with many residents forced to make tough financial choices as they navigate housing costs and the increasing price of daily essentials.

Northern District Community Health's (NDCH) manager of Health Promotion and Community Support Emily Wood said they had

witnessed an increase in rough sleeping across the Mallee region, where homelessness has traditionally led to couch surfing.

"It's a lot more than people are probably aware of," she said.

"Rough sleeping seems to be increasing

across the state."

As a town along the train line, Ms Wood said Kerang had become a refuge for people fleeing, or at risk of, domestic violence.

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weather **17°**  **Kerang** Rain easing Cloudy. Very high chance of rain, most likely in the morning. Light winds. **Wed** 16°  **Thu** 16°  **Fri** 14°  **Sat** 14°  **Sun** 14° 

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