

Gipp trains late again

By JESSICA CHAMBERS

THE Gippsland rail line was the worst performing V/Line service in the past 12 months, with only 80.7 per cent of services delivered to Traralgon on time, according to government data.

This figure was well short of the 92 per cent target of trains arriving within six minutes of the scheduled time, which has not been met on the Traralgon line since 2006.

While Albury recorded a worse 12-month average punctuality figure of 71.8 per cent, large sections of track between Seymour and Albury are subject to speed restrictions due to works.

Despite the “disappointing” figures, Transport Minister Terry Mulder pointed to overall performance improving under the State Government, as he announced the performance results for March.

“Punctuality across the V/Line network has risen from 80 per cent in March 2010.



photograph farrah plummer

Sustainable: Federation University held an open space forum to discuss sustainability in the Gippsland region.

Mine fire impact discussed

By FARRAH PLUMMER

THE environmental impacts of the Hazelwood mine fire were discussed at a sustainability forum at Federation University Gippsland campus on Thursday.

About 50 people from various sustainability, environmental, community and health groups attended the event hosted by Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development Gippsland.

Discussions included the associated

problems of the Hazelwood mine fire, how to decrease the impacts of coal-fire power and sustainable living practices.

Faculty of Education and Arts lecturer and RCE Gippsland committee member Dr Monica Green said participants wanted to get a sense of how the community might rethink having to deal with events like the mine fire and the impacts of the event.

“People in the Latrobe Valley are exposed to a whole range of environmental, economic and social impacts from the mine being here,” Dr Green

said. She said people in the Gippsland region were interested in educating the wider community about a range of sustainability issues, such as transitioning to a low carbon economy, waste management, food security and availability and accessing local food systems.

“(It was about) issues that were really concerned with re-thinking and re-envisioning the types of communities we want to see and be a part of in Gippsland,” Dr Green said.

“Education around sustainability

happens in many different ways, it happens in formal ways and informal ways.

“We’re talking about schools and universities, but we’re also talking about grass-root community actions and initiatives as well.”

Event organiser and RCE Gippsland officer, Joan McColl said it was an ideal time to run the event, to make the community and university aware of their work.