



PROUD: Merbein Primary School students Nikita and Tiger will march in Friday's parade.

Picture: Casey Groves

Floats will be bright

By Hannah Knight

HUNDREDS of students will colour the streets of Merbein this week.

With the Fishers Supermarkets Centenary Parade just four-days away, students are busy applying the finishing touches to their floats.

Split in to a variety of categories, the parade will cover pre-irrigation, irrigation and crop production, sporting heroes, recreation, sustainability, Merbein the next 100 years and cultural diversity.

Featuring whip crackers, police horses, Elliot the Emu, vintage cars, steel-wheeled tractors, and a huge array of entertainment, the streets of Merbein will be abuzz with activity.

And, Merbein Primary School students Nikita and Tiger will march with pride.

"The parade's going to be really fun," Nikita said.

"We've been making things for it and learning about our history in class."

Merbein Primary School's float will feature six unique paintings, depicting three eras of primary school education in Merbein.

Richard Wells, centenary parade coordinator, said schools would play a big part in the parade.

"There will be 600 school kids, probably 150 people for sporting heroes and lots of old farm machinery," he said.

For more information about the Merbein Centenary program visit www.merbeincentenary.com.au.

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UP AND OVER: Sheaf tossing was popular at the Settlers Picnic.
Picture: Rebecca Wells

MERBEIN CENTENARY



BOWLED OVER: Mary Cousens was busy at her secondhand shop in Merbein.



HAIR DOWN: Fran Chapman Dolan wore her original uniform.

Pictures: Casey Groves

A big day for family

By Sam Murdoch

MORE than 1500 shoppers flocked to Commercial Street in Merbein yesterday as a part of the town's centenary celebrations.

The street was a riot of colour with visitors eager to snap up a bargain.

Keith Cousens was getting into the spirit of things, dressing up in period costume from his daughter's secondhand shop.

"This has been great," Mr Cousens said. "It would be nice if we could get this many people coming down the main street everyday."

After the market people flocked to Kenny Park for the Settlers Picnic.

Period dress and games were the order of the day with Merbein Centenary committee member Rebecca Wells saying things ran brilliantly. "We've had lots of people com-

ing here and it seems people are coming from far away," Ms Wells said.

"We've found that people are actually staying the whole week to attend all the other things on."

Competitors battled it out in foot races and sheaf tossing, while those not competing were entertained by Irish and Scottish Dancing and brass and pipe bands.

"We've had lots of different people having a go," Ms Wells said.

"The fire brigade got out and had a bit of demonstration and the kids went wild for that, jumping up and down and some of them also got a bit wet.

"It's just been really busy and there have been lots of Devonshire teas sold and cakes."

Last night also saw a screening of former Merbein cameraman Lindsay Cupper's work with a collage of bird films at the Merbein Club.



COSTUME: Three generations - Vivianne Gadsden, Keith Cousens and Sharri Stimm were enjoying themselves yesterday.