

## **Big wheels are out as Rheola gets ready to party**

### **Jamie First**

For those without plans on Easter Monday, Rheola has you covered.

The old gold-mining district west of Bendigo is hosting its 144th annual charity carnival.

More than 2000 people are expected to descend on the tiny township, with the 20-plus local residents warmly welcoming visitors from near and far.

Committee president, Peter Mason, said he is confident this year's festival will continue to live up to its pledge of providing "real country entertainment".

"It's a unique day out in a rural setting with something for everyone," he said.

With no end in sight, Peter said he believes it's Victoria's longest-running official mixed sports meeting.

"It's an impressive record and we'll make sure we keep it going as long as we can.

"It's great to see families who have been brought up here or have some affiliation with Rheola return for Easter because it would be very difficult to do it without them."

Attractions on the day will include wood-chopping, vintage tractor-pulling, sheep dog trials, clay target shooting and classic car, ute and small stationary engine displays.

Rides, Pony Club events, a series of footraces with cash prizes and trophies, and the traditional Miss Rheola competition will be among other highlights, along with a patchwork quilt exhibition.

There will also be no shortage of novelty activities, such as egg throwing, sheaf tossing, bowling at the wicket and nearest to the pin golf.

All money raised will be donated to the Inglewood and Dunolly hospitals, the Rheola Public Hall and Rheola Pioneers' Park.

Entry is \$6 for adults, while children under 14 will be admitted free. Gates open from 8am.