

Run for farmer health

FARMERS, rural communities and supporters will Run 4 Farmer Health at this year's Melbourne Marathon in October.

"We are calling on every rural and city person alike to join us on Sunday, October 12 for #Run4FarmerHealth. This will be a show of strength, determination and courage. We want to show both sides of government that regional communities rely on its service," National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) director Susan Brumby said.

Victorian Farmers Federation media manager Tom Whitty initiated the call to arms and asked the public to join him.

This show of support will highlight yet again to both sides of government the importance of the NCFH and its role in improving the health, wellbeing and safety of farmers, their workers and their families.

■ **Details: To join Run4FarmerHealth visit, <http://melbournemarathon2014.gofundraise.com.au/page/ncfhrun4farmerhealth>**

Forum on food

A COMMUNITY forum on the need for safe, reliable and adequate food and its ability to create jobs and drive growth in Victoria's Central Highlands region was held in Ballarat on Tuesday.

The Nationals' candidate for the new State seat of Buninyong, Sonia Smith, hosted the event with a panel comprising Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh, chef and food writer Suzi Fitzpatrick, Melbourne restaurateur Riccardo Momesso, Balliang East mixed farmer Chris Sharkey and Central Highlands Agribusiness Forum chairman Andrew Young.

Panel members agreed educating the general public to value food and understand its production was vital, although they disagreed on the best ways of achieving this and otherwise helping farmers.

The challenges of supporting local producers while being part of a global economy underscored many of the panelists' presentations and audience questions.

■ **More next week**