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## French connection celebrated

By MICHAEL LOWE

FISHING and jet ski races, music, lots of boats and some French flair combined to make the East Coast the place to be this weekend.

Triabunna hosted a nautical-themed celebration called Seafest yesterday and from France to Freycinet festival hits full speed today.

Seafest co-ordinator Cynthia Maxwell-Smith said Seafest, on the Triabunna marina, included a game fishing competition, a jet ski race to Maria Island, food, wine, a boat show and children's activities.

Ms Maxwell-Smith said the festival aimed to show off the newly-improved marina and

highlight how Triabunna was more than a commercial fishing port — it was also a great place for recreational anglers.

She said the initial work included beautifying and expanding the existing marina, but further stages would include a boat ramp on the other side of the river and "boatels" — or floating visitor accommodation.

"Seafest is a day for the community and bringing new people into the area," she said.

The four-day festival, that finishes today, celebrates East Coast connections to early French explorers.

The community area, The Village, at Triabunna will today

host a craft and book market, long lunch and French car rally. There will also be a music festival on the beach at Swansea.

Also on show today at Buckland is an interpretive botanical display explaining the work of French explorers called the Tasmanian Bushland Gardens and in Triabunna, prints by John Ingleton that also look at Tasmania's French connections.

One of the festival organisers, Tom Teniswood, said Tasmania's history could have been very different if it was settled by the French, as the French were more respectful to Aboriginals.



The Sands Family Circus performing at Seafest at Triabunna.

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Launceston Deputy Mayor Jeremy Ball has a cameo scene in The Matrix with Keanu Reeves.

## Seconds of fame for politicians

Did you know both *Mad Max* and *The Matrix* feature cameo appearances from Tasmanian politicians? Neither did ALEX DRUCE.

HE'S only on screen for seven seconds, but Launceston's own deputy mayor can be found in *The Matrix*.

Alderman Jeremy Ball, a NIDA graduate who had roles in various TV television projects, makes a fleeting cameo in the iconic sci-fi flick, appearing as a businessman whose mobile phone is stolen by protagonist Neo — played by Keanu Reeves.

It is nearly 15 years to the day since the release of *The Matrix*, which was filmed in Sydney a decade before Alderman Ball was elected to the Launceston City Council in 2007.

After graduating from NIDA in 1993, Alderman Ball co-starred in 20 episodes of the ABC TV show *Fallen Angels* (alongside Gary McDonald), while also enjoying bit-part roles in shows such as *A Day in the Life*, *Water Rats*, *Police Rescue* and *Murder Call*.

A successful casting call for "some sci-fi movie someone knew something about" saw him riding in a van en route to the Sarvey Hills set with directors Andy and Lana Wachowski.

"Basically, they dropped us off on the street, and the crew was basically installing the set around us," Alderman Ball said. "It was crazy how fast they work."

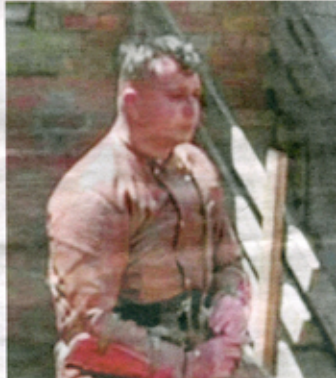
Alderman Ball's scene centres around Neo fleeing from a rampant Agent Smith — played by Hugo Weaving.

Neo, sprinting down the street, grabs a mobile phone out of Alderman Ball's hands while he is mid-conversation.

Alderman Ball's "businessman" is not happy, and waves for help.

"What the s\*\*\*! That's my phone! That guy took my phone!"

Alderman Ball said the scene was done in just four takes. "It was a lot of fun, and Keanu



Bertrand Cadart plays a thug in *Mad Max*.

really is the nicest guy," Alderman Ball said.

"I actually forgot that I was in the movie."

"I went to see *The Matrix* when I was in Edinburgh, saw myself, and started laughing."

This month also marks 35 years since the appearance of another Tasmanian local government identity in a Hollywood blockbuster.

George Miller's 1980 road classic *Mad Max* features fleeting glimpses of French-born Glamorgan-Spring Bay Mayor Bertrand Cadart, who played a thug named Clunk in Toocutter's gang.

Mr Cadart said he was called upon to design the post-apocalyptic motorcycles used by both police and gang members, and was also asked to act as an

adviser on all motorcycle scenes in the film.

"I remember getting a call out of the blue from a guy who said: 'I am George Miller and I want to shoot a bike movie, but I don't know anything about motorcycles,'" Mr Cadart said.

Mr Cadart also played the father of a violent people smuggler in the 2011 horror movie *Bolton King*, which was filmed at Hiheno.

● Jeremy Ball in *The Matrix* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wifCmGw>

● Bertrand Cadart in *Mad Max* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH8GBJ3M>

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Jeremy Ball and Bertrand Cadart today, better known for their roles in local government.