



Big Franchises Come to Warwick

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The humble "cup of joe" and the good old Aussie meat pie are leading the way to greater business opportunities in Warwick.

Warwick Chamber of Commerce President, John Randal said the fact that big names like Zarraffa's Coffee and Big Dad's Pies were setting up in the Rose City was due to the healthy local economy.

"By choosing Warwick as their next store location, these operators are saying that our town has a strong enough, vibrant enough economy to support investments at these higher levels," Mr Randall said.

"It's also saying Warwick is now coming of age, when it can have such 21st century innovations such as drive-through cappuccinos.

"We are still basically a country town at heart, but it's good to see some high-tech coming through in our retail sector."

Mr Randall reckons it's good news all round, with the flow-on effect of a buoyant economy to boost the district.

"The chamber is always keen to see new business start-ups because of the extra dollars which they pour into the local economy.

"What a lot of people don't realise is that for every dollar these new stores take, about 30% of that dollar will go into paying the wages of local employers," he said.

"Then there is the cost of raw materials.

"Depending on the type of store, some operators are paying up to another 30% of their takings in buying raw materials, such as basic foodstuffs, cleaning equipment and advertising.

"And that's good news for our other business."

Warwick could be the Australian-owned Zarraffa's Coffee's 50th store, with the brew-house set to open early next year at the former Brodie's site.

The drive-through set-up will open mid-January.

A Zarraffa's Coffee spokeswoman said the store was looking to employ between 15 and 25 staff.

Across the road at the Hungry Jack's site, a stand-alone building is set to be the new Big Dad's Pies on the corner of Wood and Albion streets.

The site was originally pencilled in as a bottle shop, but a Southern Downs Regional Council knockback meant it was open for lease.

Retail Food Group spokeswoman Faith Manning said Big Dad's Pies was looking to recruit a Warwick franchisee to take on the opportunity.

RFG is the owner of Donut King, Brumby's Bakery, Michel's Pat-isserie, BB's Cafe and Big Dad's Pies franchise systems throughout Australia and New Zealand.

"The franchise will open once we have an approved applicant, as we are still advertising," Ms Manning said.

"No baking or retail experience is required as three weeks of training is provided inclusive of the purchase price of the business. This is a very simple system to operate and would require an owner and perhaps two others only."

