



• Eric Wright, Bill Tilley, Greg Aplin and Maddy Dobson share the job of ceremonially starting the project. Picture: KYLIE GOLDSMITH

# Cancer centre donations hit \$1m mark

BY HOWARD JONES

THE Fight Cancer Foundation's public appeal has passed the \$1 million mark for the Border cancer centre, but there's \$1.5 million to be raised.

A second milestone for the \$5.5 million project was passed yesterday when state members Greg Aplin and Bill Tilley turned the first sod on the Keene Street site.

A builder is yet to be appointed but Douglas Earthmoving has already shifted 3000 cubic metres of earth to prepare for a three-level building.

The project has won \$1.5 million from the federal government and \$750,000 from NSW but is awaiting Victoria's answer to a request for a matching \$750,000.

Mr Tilley and North east colleagues Dr Bill Sykes and Tim McCurdy held a meeting last week with foundation chief executive Eric Wright about the approach to the Baillieu government. The three MPs strongly supported the project that will provide a 20-bed hostel for parents and other carers of patients being treated in Albury-

Wodonga for cancer and other illnesses. Mr Tilley said the fact the site was in Albury shouldn't be a problem. "This is an Albury Wodonga project and will benefit people from the two states," Mr Tilley said. The foundation is managing it in partnership with Rotary, Lions and Zonta clubs. Rotary regional

fundraising chairman Peter Drummond and fundraiser Keith Martin joined long-time campaigners Maddy Dobson and major donor Tonia Timmermans for the sod-turning. The latest tally for the cancer centre stands at \$1,068,000.