

# West Park in sizzling form

By Julian O'Brien

WEST Park curator Ricky Aitken will be given a gold stamp of approval when the thousands of spectators walk through the gates for the 1998 Burnie New Year's Day Athletic Carnival today.

Runners, trainers and officials alike agree Aitken and the Burnie City Council have prepared one of the best tracks they've ever seen at West Park, one sure to produce some blistering times.

And, with the forecast of fine weather, the Burnie Athletic Club is looking forward to making up for the rain-soaked 1995 carnival.

"The council must be congratulated for the track they have prepared, especially the curator, he has done an excellent job," BAC president Mick Hardy said yesterday.

"With the forecast of good weather, it is very important we get a good crowd to get the club heading in the right direction.

"The major sponsorship by Australian Bulk Minerals has also been a great help to us."

The \$15,000 Burnie Gift continues to be one of the major events in the Australian pro running carnival.

It is considered one of the most prestigious running races in Australia.



**JOB WELL DONE:** An overall view of West Park Oval which will today be a hive of activity. Picture: Deanne Barclay.