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AUSKICK: The 2013 NAB Auskick Gala Day will be held on May 12.

Gala day growing

ANDREW ROGERS

THE third annual NAB Auskick Gala Day promises to be bigger than Ben Hur.

To be held on Mother's Day this year, the day has grown to become the biggest Auskick day outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

Clubs from the Central Murray, Heathcote and District, North Central, Golden Rivers and Mallee football leagues will be in attendance, with a variety of sites and activities — including a healthy eating fruit snack stop.

AFL Country Victoria's Trevor Wellington has worked closely with tireless volunteers including Jan Hickmott to ensure the smooth running of the event at Alan Garden Me-

morial Reserve.

Wellington said the most important aspect of the event was that it was free of charge.

"We're very keen to ensure cost is no barrier to participation, just as we are with race, religion and gender," he said.

"It's a taste for kids, so they can say 'we love footy'."

And with new families potentially in the region, the potential is to get new families to local football clubs, according to Wellington.

"If you get a new family out of this, somewhere down the track [members of that family might become] your president, canteen worker, under 11s footballer."