

For more of the best local news, entertainment, sports and photos, click on www.northernleader.com.au

WOMBARRA SCULPTURE GARDEN



Ecopella choir sings green messages

SEASIDE & ARTS FESTIVAL



Thirroul hosts week-end of activities

UN DELEGATE



Coledale teenager heads to Pacific

CULTURAL GRANTS



Circus WOW makes most of subsidies



• All's fair in love and war: Clare McKenzie, Emma Page, Brendan Cook and Rory McKay – highlighting inequalities.

Picture: HEATHER SMITH

Gays fight to marry

HEATHER SMITH
hsmith@northernleader.com.au

SAME-SEX couples will take part in a mock marriage ceremony in Wollongong's Crown Street Mall amphitheatre tonight in defiance of the Marriage Act.

At least five couples will tie the knot to highlight the inequalities between homosexual and heterosexual relationships.

Organiser Paola Harvey of Equal Love Wollongong said the Marriage Act classified lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex couples as "unnatural" and this was "blatant discrimination".

"The same arguments were used to justify racist laws that prevent black and white people marrying each other," she said.

"More and more countries have been legalising same-sex marriage. It's a disgrace that Australia still has such discriminatory laws.

"We want to put pressure on the government to repeal homophobic laws."

Among the couples to "wed" are Clare McKenzie, 24, and Emma Page, 22. While the housemates are not in a relationship, they are passionate about instigating change.

"It's not because we have a strong desire to get married but we support people's right to choose," Ms McKenzie said.

Brendan Cook, 22, and Rory McKay, 19, will also exchange vows.

"There's a level of respect bestowed on a relationship with legal recognition," Mr Cook said. "It's also important to some people's faiths as well as the legal benefits that come with marriage."

The ceremony will be held at 7.30pm, Thursday, March 18.

For more information or to get involved, contact Ms Harvey on 0416 118 612 or email paola.harvey@gmail.com.

A national day of action against the marriage laws will take place on Saturday, with a rally at the Sydney Town Hall from 1pm.

Need a new fridge, TV, dishwasher, toaster...? Come and see us for all your electrical appliances

Why go to Warrawong?

OPEN 7 DAYS:
Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm
Sat 9am-4pm
Sun 10am-3pm

robertbarnhill.com.au
electrical appliances

4284 7000

NEW Electrical STORE in Corrimal

Big enough for great prices, small enough to care! * 417 Princes Highway Corrimal, just up from Towradgi Rd