



Over-50s looking for love in all the new places

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LOVE knows no boundaries, and the desire for love and companionship can present itself at any age.

Many over-50s are actively looking for love in our community and are using several resources to help guide the way.

Warren Gavin, 51, from Herne Hill, put an ad in the *Geelong Advertiser* classifieds which received mixed results.

"I'm a Taurean and tend to be fairly stubborn, but I'm also very romantic. So I put an ad in the paper and got 15 responses," he said.

"I met a few nice women, but I'm still holding out hopes of meeting the right one."

Mr Gavin, a biker, described himself as a teddy bear at heart whose appearance could be deceiving.

"I'm an enigma. My IQ is in the top 5 per cent of the country and I enjoy stimulating conversation, but can appear quite intimidating with my tattoos, piercings and leather biker gear," he said.

Richard, 52, from Newtown, said online dating was a great way to avoid being judged on first impressions.

"By meeting people online, I can stay fairly anonymous until I've met someone I feel comfortable with. Then I can start revealing a bit more about myself," he said.

Richard is a member of the Forever Young Club, billed as a "safe and friendly way for over-50s to meet, chat and find companionship over the internet".

Since its launch by Geelong-based founder Jennifer Cromarty more than three

months ago, it has attracted more than 1000 members.

"I'm not computer literate, but I'll hang in there because I find it interesting and I get to chat with people from all over Australia," Richard said.

Both men encouraged other over-50s to get out there and enjoy life.

"When my parents turned 50, they thought they were on a downhill slide," Richard said.

"But 50 is the new 40, and life starts over. If you are not good at meeting people, there are tons of different resources available to help expand your social network."

If you're looking for love, try placing an ad in the new singles section of the *Geelong Advertiser* classifieds from Saturday.



ROMANTIC: Warren Gavin has been using the *Geelong Advertiser* to find a soul mate. Photo: TONY KERRIGAN