



**All shiny and new:** Blue Mountains mayor Adam Searle and deputy mayor Janet Mays join ALDI area managers Martin Mueller and Rodney Forrest and ALDI store manager Tyrell Fynn inside the new ALDI supermarket building in Katoomba last Friday. The supermarket will start trading on Thursday, March 4.

# Choice for shoppers

By **Shane Desiatnik**

A new ALDI store will open its doors on the corner of Waratah and Katoomba Streets, Katoomba on Thursday, March 4, bringing a new shopping experience to the Upper Mountains, employment opportunities and retail competition.

During a tour of the nearly completed centre last Friday, Mayor Adam Searle and deputy mayor Janet Mays said they welcome the extra choice ALDI will provide.

"The community is looking forward to the opening of ALDI, which will increase the range of shopping options for people in the Upper Mountains," Cr Searle said.

Cr Mays said "it is an exciting step for retailing in Katoomba and should increase competition, which we must always support".

ALDI's Minchinbury region managing director Stefan Kopp said the new supermarket will provide Katoomba customers with the chance to experience ALDI's shopping innovations and high quality exclusive brands at permanently low prices.

"The 2009 supermarket survey conducted by

CHOICE found ALDI is 25 per cent cheaper than its competitors," Mr Kopp said.

"There has been a lot of excitement leading up to the opening and our employees are gearing up for a busy day."

The supermarket chain advises it sources all its fresh meat, 97 per cent of its dairy and 95 per cent of its fruit and vegetables within Australia and the majority of its core product range is Australian made.

The centre also contains basement and above ground parking spaces and four retail tenancies with street frontages, available for lease after the supermarket opens.

Access to the car park is via Waratah Street which has been partly resealed.

The Katoomba Chamber of Commerce and Community (KCCC) has welcomed ALDI's arrival in the town, but raised the issue of traffic flow implications at the Katoomba Street intersection at its latest meeting on February 11.

Council has applied for a Federal Government Black Spot grant for the construction of a roundabout at that intersection, which it advises would improve traffic flow and safety.