

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011



This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of LeadWest's News Summary. This past week there was continued media focus on response to the Budgets – Federal and Victoria – and council budgets have started to come into focus.

The region's growth and our "growing pains" continue to remain in focus as well. LeadWest's CEO was quoted in *The Australian* on the need for better east-west connection in Melbourne.

With the announcement of some preliminary work for the Regional Rail Link there's a reminder of Jane Fonda's exercise motto "No pain; no gain!" There's been a bit of media focus on the "pain" side of that this week.

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## BRIMBANK

### BRIMBANK WORK-SAFETY PLEA

*Brimbank Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/city-work-safety-plea/>

BRIMBANK employers have been urged to make safety a higher priority after a Sunshine West worker's arm was caught in an industrial food mixer last week.

The 22-year-old's arm was broken on Monday after it was caught in the blades of the heavy mixer as he was removing something that had jammed.

Ambulance Victoria paramedic Bruce Bloomfield said the man was in severe pain after being freed by workmates.

"He told us that he was trying to clear something that had jammed in the mixer and that when the object was removed, the blades started moving again," he said. "He said that his right arm was caught by the blade and the force of it actually broke his arm."

**WorkSafe Victoria said the west had a concerning record when it came to workplace accidents, with a high number of accidents in Brimbank.**

Statistics for the past five financial years, ending June 2010, show there were 3695 worker compensation claims totalling \$73,833,691 filed in Brimbank alone.

For the same period 2729 claims were lodged in Moonee Valley totalling \$52m.

The nearby neighbouring area of Maribyrnong recorded 3716 worker compensation claims totalling \$65m.

### BRIMBANK BUDGET: DEAR SIR, COULD YOU POSSIBLY...

*Brimbank Weekly – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/brimbank-budget-dear-sir-could-you-possibly-/2164701.aspx?storypage=0>

RESIDENTS, traders and community groups have revealed a wish list of items they hope to see funded as part of Brimbank Council's 2011-12 budget.

The council will consider a draft annual budget at tonight's meeting before releasing it tomorrow for public comment.

**Keilor Residents and Ratepayers Association president Susan Jennison said a number of areas needed attention, particularly the provision of open space.**

**Calder Rise Primary School, closed in 2009, is high on the list of potential sites.**

"Brimbank Council said there was enough community space in Brimbank. We would argue strongly that there isn't," Ms Jennison said. "The Cliff Harvey Lagoon Reserve is already extremely popular and shows a space like Calder Rise would get a lot of use."

**Ms Jennison cited traffic control as an area for improvement, particularly around Keilor Park Drive.**

"We would also like to see extended opening hours for Keilor Village library, which has much shorter hours than all of the other Brimbank libraries."

**Residents and traders in Deer Park are working together to improve the image of the area, particularly around the troubled Ballarat Road shopping strip.**

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Deer Park Residents and Traders Association secretary Les Tarczon said the council had a role to play in dealing with the problems.

"We have had a number of robberies and bashings in the precinct. The police have been doing a good job and had some impact, but the council really has to look at CCTV (security cameras)."

Mr Tarczon rejected the view CCTV didn't have an impact on crime and safety. "It is not going to stop crime, but if it deters five or six people out of 10, then you've made a difference."

**The group wants to see isolated and elderly residents better connected with facilities through improved community transport. More activities to keep young people off the street and out of trouble are also on the wish list.**

Brimbank Little Athletics president Dennis Thornton echoed that call, saying organised activities such as sport helped keep young people on the straight and narrow.

Thornton said ongoing upgrades of the club's home base at Sassella Park were welcome after a decade-long fight. **But the biggest issue it is facing is lack of shade.**

"We need some shaded shelter. They are spending a lot of money on the hall, but if they have enough left over we want to get some shade."

Thornton said the club attracted many families with young children, and shade was essential in summer.

"I think they are looking at it. The administrators have been very approachable; it wasn't like that before."

For the latest on council's draft budget, including details of a proposed rate rise, check out this website tomorrow.

### **BRIMBANK BUDGET WIN**

*Brimbank Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/brimbank-budget-win/>

BRIMBANK'S mentally ill and young apprentices are the big winners in the Federal Budget.

**The Budget, which is expected to return a \$3.5 billion surplus in 2013, provided little for specific projects but money for programs that will help residents in the longer term.**

**It earmarked \$1.5 billion for mental health services, including \$419.7 million to expand support services for teens and young adults.**

Sunshine Headspace chief executive Nick Prendergast welcomed the money, which leading mental health campaigner Prof Patrick McGorry recently said was essential in disadvantaged Brimbank.

"The provision of mental health services is a really important issue for the western suburbs, and anything that puts money into it is great," Mr Prendergast said.

**Community West executive officer Robyn Shilton said the budget was "moderately positive" but warned some aspects could plunge battlers further into trouble.**

Ms Shilton's greatest concern was a \$47.1 million program to get teenage mums back to school.

Under the trial program, the parents' social security payments will be cut if they don't go back to school to finish year 12 when their baby turns one.

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"Compliance linked to reduced benefits are really prohibitive because they impact the children. If parents don't comply, it forces the children into deeper poverty," she said.

But Gorton MP Brendan O'Connor said the Budget would increase opportunities with strong investment in training and education, pointing to a \$1700 trades apprentice bonus that rewards apprentices who finish their qualifications.

The Budget also included \$25 million towards a new interchange near the intersection of Kings Rd and the Calder Freeway last week.

### **FAST FOOD IN HEADLIGHTS OF SLOW RESEARCH**

*Brimbank Weekly – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/fast-food-in-headlights-of-slow-research/2164714.aspx>

A SYDENHAM resident is putting her heart and soul into studying cardiovascular disease, writes Anthony Loncaric.

**Victoria University researcher Lauren Cornall says she's determined to find a way to reduce obesity and type2 diabetes rates in the west.**

Both are key risk factors for the development of cardiovascular disease and the 24-year-old Sydenham resident is aiming to use her research to increase understanding of how they heighten the dangers.

"The goal is to develop new treatment targets, providing safe and effective treatments for obesity and type2 diabetes," she says. "I'm hoping the research will ultimately reduce the rate of cardiovascular disease in Australia."

**According to research published last year by Diabetes Australia-Victoria, an average of two people in Brimbank are diagnosed with type2 diabetes each day.**

**Ms Cornall says people in the western suburbs need to eat healthier and exercise more. "Although my research is looking at the molecular causes of diabetes and obesity, I have noticed there are fast-food outlets all over the west which might be part of the reason the rates are so high,"** she says. "More funding needs to go into providing education so people understand what's good and bad for them."

Ms Cornall has fond memories of growing up in Bairnsdale but admits she initially had no idea what she wanted to do with her life.

But a need to understand how things work and a desire to help others led her to pursue a career in medical science.

"I have a very scientific mind and I'm driven to find out things I don't know," she says. "I want to help people and alleviate their suffering with cardiovascular disease. I want to contribute to society and reduce health burdens."

The Heart Foundation is funding Ms Cornall's research and combining its Heart Week and Go Red for Women programs to promote awareness of heart disease among women. The campaign is running this month and in June.

**"Heart disease is the biggest killer of women so it's important people are aware that diabetes and obesity can cause it," Ms Cornall says.**

## MARIBRYNONG

### **WEST GEARS UP FOR REVELRY**

*Wyndham Leader – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/west-gears-up-for-revelry/>

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TWO weeks in November are set to unwrap and unravel Melbourne's preconceptions of the west.

**Boundaries will be broken down and the many creative edges of Maribyrnong and surrounds will be on display at what organisers say will be the biggest of the Big West festivals yet.**

Speaking at the recent launch of the 2011 Big West Festival theme - "Uncontained" - artistic director Kate Shearer said the festival would give the west a chance to "break free from the everyday".

"Big West has always challenged notions of the west as culturally impoverished and we'll continue to celebrate the idea that 'you can't put the west in a box' in 2011.

Running from November 15-27, this year's festival will see a range of "site-specific" works, some in landmark locations around the west and others in yet-to-be-discovered spaces.

"The west is a constantly changing environment, with a great deal of urban development, and artists are also wanting to respond to that in 2011," Ms Shearer said.

From an exhibition of large-scale art works, no smaller than two metres to a Flash Fiction competition seeking literary works of less than 200 words, the Big West Festival will offer a range of creative outlets for those living under the western sky.

An online photography exhibition, 3011 in 2011, is open for snap-happy residents to capture their personal take on Footscray or Seddon.

Artists, performers, DJs and musicians wanting to get "uncontained" at the Big West festival are asked to get involved.

Expression-of-interest forms and competition details are available at [bigwest.com.au](http://bigwest.com.au)

Keep your eye on your local Leader newspaper, sponsors of the Big West Festival, for event news leading up to November.

### **LONELY PLANET OFF TO UK**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/lonely-planet-off-to-uk/2166794.aspx>

**FOOTSCRAY-based travel publisher Lonely Planet is adamant it has a future in Melbourne after it announced it was shedding up to 70 jobs.**

Lonely Planet CEO Matt Goldberg announced a restructure of the company to staff last week.

He told them by email revenue had dropped \$13million in 2010-11, based on the United Kingdom financial year that ended March 31.

The strong Australian dollar was hurting the company and Mr Goldberg said "more than 80 per cent of our revenues are coming from outside of Australia [and] New Zealand with more than 70 per cent of our costs located in Australia."

BBC Worldwide completed its purchase of the company this year when it acquired 25per cent of shares for \$67.2million. It had bought 75per cent in October 2007 for \$201.6million from Lonely Planet's founders, Tony and Maureen Wheeler.

**In a bid to lower costs by up to 18per cent, the online operations will be relocated to London.**

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Global head of communications Kim Lovely said the restructure would mean some staff would be offered jobs within BBC Worldwide; others would relocate to London and some would be offered redundancies. The job losses will be across the company's three locations, which employ 450 people.

**The number of cuts to be made at the Footscray headquarters is not yet known. But Mr Goldberg affirmed LP's commitment to its presence in Footscray. The renovated warehouse on the banks of the Maribyrnong River has served as its headquarters for 10 years.**

"We are committed to maintaining our headquarters in Melbourne, which will remain a centre of excellence for publishing," Mr Goldberg said.

The Wheelers founded Lonely Planet in 1973.

### **BAYSIDE P-12 COLLEGE DEFIES 'DOWNGRADE UPGRADE' EDICT**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/bayside-p12-college-defies-downgrade-upgrade-edict/2166793.aspx>

**BAYSIDE P-12 College has launched a massive community campaign after being stripped of \$2million and told by the Education Department to "downgrade" its school upgrade.**

The school is one of Hobsons Bay's largest, with more than 1300 students at campuses in Newport, Williamstown and Altona North. It has students from surrounding municipalities like Maribyrnong and Wyndham.

Under an upgrade of the school's Paisley campus at Newport, structurally unsound buildings are being replaced. Building works cost \$12.149 million and were

approved by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development last August.

**School council president Steven Kingshott said the college had decided to go public after a \$2million shortfall was confirmed by the Baillieu government's first budget.**

"About four weeks after the state election, our principals are called into Treasury Place and told the budget's going to be \$10 million," Mr Kingshott said.

"This has been in the planning for eight years and to turn this around in four weeks, I'm just amazed they could do that. It's not appropriate, it really isn't. The more galling thing was to be told two days before Christmas. The thing that has been frustrating is that a commitment was made, a commitment was given."

**Mr Kingshott said that without the upgrade, children would suffer from downsized classrooms and other cost-cutting measures.**

"We've decided as a school community to take action as appropriate. We believe that our outstanding students deserve outstanding facilities, and we're prepared to do everything we can to overturn this decision.

"We will also be calling on our local community to help support our campaign."

**The school is seeking a meeting with Education Minister Martin Dixon and other politicians and starting a petition.**

State Williamstown MP Wade Noonan said that without the money, the school could only be patched up. "This is a ridiculous proposition which would result in ageing buildings receiving a facelift, rather than being rebuilt.

"The Baillieu government has just cut capital funding for school building works in the recent state budget by 46 per cent."

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The education minister and the department did not respond to the Weekly's request for comment.

### **CLEAN AND GREEN BUDGET BID FOR MARIBYRNONG**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/clean-and-green-budget-bid-for-maribyrnong/>

ROADS will be a focus in Maribyrnong Council's Budget this year, with a \$4.2 million improvement plan going some way to making up for the State Government's lack of road spending.

**The 2011/12 draft budget shows \$65.1 million will be collected in Maribyrnong, thanks to a 5.5 per cent rate rise. Two per cent of the rates will go directly to the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Fund, to help close the maintenance and renewal gap on council property after years of directing the majority of funds on reducing the city's debt.**

By the end of 2011/12, the council projects that debt will be about \$5.5 million, down from about \$34 million in 2000.

### **Government funding, grants, fines and fees will provide up to \$95.2 million.**

The council said cost shifting, the EPA landfill levy, an unfunded superannuation liability and other external factors had forced it to keep rates up.

"The landfill levy is another form of cost shifting by the State Government as council is being asked to cover the cost," Mayor Sarah Carter said.

Cr Michael Clarke said attending to amenity and services was important. "Our wish is to see a clean and green city," Cr Clarke said.

The budget will see money for extended library hours, a rapid response unit for rubbish dumping and increased funding to make Maribyrnong a festival city.

**An extra \$200,000 will be added to a parks and garden budget, which is already more than \$5 million, for maintenance and improvements to city parks and open space.**

The pensioner rebate has been increased 5.8 per cent to \$73.

Councillors and staff agreed that it was a responsible budget focused on getting back to basics.

An information session will be held on May 25 and submissions can be made until June 15.

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## MELTON

### **WAITING FOR CAROLINE SPRINGS STATION**

*North West Weekly – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/waiting-for-caroline-springs-station/2164708.aspx>

**MELTON Council has joined the chorus of Caroline Springs residents voicing their disappointment at the state government's decision to defer the suburb's railway station project.**

**As reported by the Weekly, the project did not receive funding in this month's state budget.**

Work on creating a station at the southern end of Christies Road in Ravenhall began late last year, after the previous government committed to completing the project by 2012.

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The station was to include a bus stop and taxi rank, and pedestrian and bicycle paths connecting it with the surrounding area.

**Melton mayor Justin Mammarella said he was extremely disappointed the government had failed to recognise Caroline Springs' urgent need for public transport options.**

"Residents in Caroline Springs deserve better public transport. It's baffling that the government has decided to defer this critical project for the west," he said.

"Melton Shire is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Australia and we deserve better public transport and an improved rail service."

Caroline Springs resident Joy Cox said she was sick of having to travel 15-20 minutes by car to Deer Park station to catch the train.

"The services at Deer Park aren't regular enough and I'm disappointed we don't have a station closer to our area," she said. "All we've got is a road to nowhere; we need a station badly. Our area is growing all the time and people need more services."

A spokesman for Transport Minister Terry Mulder did not respond before the Weekly went to print.

### **MELTON VOLUNTEERS APPLAUDED**

*Melton Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://melton-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/melton-volunteers-applauded/>

MELTON Council is acknowledging the contribution of volunteers this week as part of National Volunteer Week.

With the theme Inspiring the Volunteer in You, Melton Mayor Justin Mammarella said volunteers were the backbone of the shire.

**Shire services that use volunteers include planned activity groups; the volunteer transport program; Melbacc Respite House; Ageing Well ambassadors; food services; visitor information centre; walking school bus; road safety programs, community centres and festivals and events.**

"Council values the important contribution made by volunteers in our community and National Volunteer Week is an opportunity for us to recognise and say thank you for their efforts," he said.

### **CLEAN UP THIS MELTON RAILWAY STATION CARPARK MESS**

*Melton Leader – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://melton-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/clean-up-this-melton-railway-station-carpark-mess/>

THE State Government must upgrade the Melton Railway Station carpark as a matter of urgency, says Labor.

**Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews, who visited the station last week, said Labor pledged \$800,000 to asphalt unsealed areas of the carpark and eliminate muddy areas ahead of winter.**

**But he said this month's state Budget failed to match that funding commitment.**

"Thousands of Melton commuters use the station every week and these works are needed to keep up with the rising demand for V/Line rail services," Mr Andrews said.

"Already the Government has failed to invest in the V/Line network with no plans to order additional VLocity rail carriages to ease overcrowding on the Ballarat line, which services Melton."

Mr Andrews said although the Government had endorsed Labor's Regional Rail Link project, it was time to improve accessibility and amenities at regional and

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metropolitan stations. "This new rail line will provide for extra capacity on the Ballarat line and pave the way for more peak hour services for Melton station," he said.

Melton state Labor MP Don Nardella said he had worked hard to secure funding for the Melton station carpark upgrade.

**Coalition Member for Western Victoria David Koch said an upgrade of Melton station was still a high priority for the Government.**

### SEVEN MONTHS ACTING NOW THE REAL THING

*Melton Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/seven-months-acting-now-the-real-thing/2165423.aspx>

MELTON'S new chief executive officer will hit the ground running when it comes to heading up the council.

Kelvin Tori had acted in the role for seven months before his appointment became official last week.

"I am excited at the opportunity. I've a very good understanding of the organisation and the issues."

**His first priority is implementing the council's 2011-12 budget while continuing to lobby the state and federal governments in the wake of their budget announcements.**

"My particular focus will initially be on delivering consistently high-quality customer service, engaging with the community and ensuring council is effective in advocating to state and federal governments for support in addressing the many challenges that growth presents," he said.

**Mr Tori said he was prepared for the challenges relating to Melton's development, such as improving business, employment, transport and services.**

"There are always things happening in new and different ways. It's not just a maintenance council. This is the good stuff, what we work in public service for," he said, adding that he enjoyed working in Melton because "it's still a nice community; people have a real sense of ownership".

Mr Tori had been Melton's general manager of corporate services since 2002.

He replaces Neville Smith, who took on CEO duties at Moonee Valley Council after nine years in the Melton post.

Mayor Justin Mammarella says he has confidence in the new chief executive leading the way.

"The circumstances Mr Tori will confront are significantly more challenging than what was experienced by previous CEOs," he said.

"He brings a wealth of finance and governance experience to the role and has shown great leadership in meeting the challenges and implementing council's vision and plans for our community."

Mr Tori, who holds a bachelor in economics and is a qualified accountant, was previously director of corporate services for the Pyrenees Council and governance officer for Nillumbik.

### CASH BOOST MEANS AID CENTRES WILL MULTIPLY

*Melton Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/cash-boost-means-aid-centres-will-multiply/2165424.aspx>

**MELTON could be in line for a new adolescent health centre as part of a \$2.2billion windfall for mental health.**

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Prime Minister Julia Gillard visited Sunshine's Visy Cares Hub on Friday to outline how \$420million would be spent over each of five years to greatly increase youth mental health services.

The funding will triple the number of headspace centres across Australia from 30 to 90 and help fund 12 new Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centres (EPPIC).

The new centres will be modelled on the existing EPPIC centre, a psychiatric service for young people in Melbourne's west who require intensive treatment.

Ms Gillard joined Health Minister Nicola Roxon and Mental Health Minister Mark Butler in meeting adolescent mental health expert Professor Patrick McGorry and headspace executive officer Chris Tanti at headspace.

"When fully operating, these centres will help 72,000 young Australians each year, providing an environment where young people can feel safe, respected and supported," the Prime Minister said.

**A headspace spokeswoman could not confirm reports that Melton was a potential site but said intensive "scoping" work was under way to identify areas of greatest need.**

**She said considerations included the number of young people in the area, population growth, social and economic disadvantage, and accessibility of the location.**

Up to one in four Australians aged 12 to 25 experience a mental disorder in any year, but an estimated 750,000 young people fail to have their mental health needs met. Mr Tanti said headspace had helped more than 45,000 young people since opening in 2007.

## MOONEE VALLEY

### MATHS MARVELS AT ROSEHILL SECONDARY COLLEGE

*Moonee Valley Leader – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://moonee-valley-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/math-marvels-at-rosehill-secondary-college/>

**THE Moonee Valley Racing Club is hosting a number of information forums to inform and seek feedback from residents and traders in Moonee Ponds about a draft master plan for the proposed redevelopment of the club's site.**

**The racing club is preparing a proposal for the site which includes the development of four 20-storey apartment towers.**

**Significant opposition for the plans came from politicians and residents at the time plans were revealed in April.**

Racing club chief executive Michael Browell said the club was planning a long-term redevelopment to change the site into a racing precinct, complemented by residential, commercial and mixed-use facilities. He said the change would occur over 15 years.

"We think we have come up with a responsible and vibrant concept that marries the residential and commercial potential of the site with our very real need to reconfigure our track and upgrade our facilities to make racing at Moonee Valley viable for decades to come.

"We are of course very mindful of our duty to keep residents and traders abreast of what we are proposing, which is why we are hosting this initial consultation of

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our own volition and before the final master plan is formally lodged with [Moonee Valley] Council."

Three forums will be held in the Committee Room at the Moonee Valley Racing Club in McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds on Wednesday, June 1 at 7pm, Saturday, June 4 at 2pm and Sunday June 5 at 2pm.

Bookings are not required.

Information will soon be available online at [www.mvrc.net.au](http://www.mvrc.net.au) with the site progressively updated.

### **BOOST FOR JOBS, FAMILIES**

*Moonee Valley Leader – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/boost-for-jobs-families/>

LOCAL employment services, road upgrades and changes to the Family Tax Benefit have been touted as big ticket items for locals in the Federal Budget.

**The North West Employment Group was among the biggest winners, awarded \$320,000 to continue finding work for the unemployed.**

**Moonee Valley Council was allocated \$325,290 as part of the Gillard Government's Roads to Recovery Funding.**

**Moonee Valley motorists will also benefit from the \$209.3 million upgrade to the Western Ring Rd.**

**And more than 7200 low-income earning families in Wills and Maribyrnong electorates will be eligible for an extra \$4200 a child, a year.**

But Moonee Valley Council's traffic and transportation portfolio spokeswoman Narelle Sharpe said the city needed to be considered a lot more favourably.

"That money is nowhere near enough to improve our roads. It's disappointing," Cr Sharpe said.

"We're an inner-city council, people are using our roads to and from the city and we've seen a considerable amount of growth in our suburbs. These factors should have been considered."

Maribyrnong federal Labor MP and Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten said the Budget would drive opportunities for families and young people in Maribyrnong, which covers most of Moonee Valley.

**"For example, a \$1700 Trades Apprentice Income Bonus will be provided to up to 2888 apprentices in Maribyrnong, encouraging them to complete their critical trade qualification," Mr Shorten said.**

Wills federal Labor MP Kelvin Thomson said the Budget invested in training, education and job creation for families and young people. **"In Wills there are at present 1397 very long-term unemployed people, without work for two or more year," Mr Thomson said.** Up to 2339 apprentices in Wills will be eligible to receive a \$1700 Trades Apprentice Income Bonus.

### **BOOST YMCA DOUSES YOUTH CENTRE FEARS**

*Moonee Valley Weekly – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/ymca-douses-youth-centre-fears/2164680.aspx>

**THE YMCA hopes to transform the disused fire station in Essendon into a training and support centre for youth in Melbourne's north west.**

**If approved the YMCA Youth Foyer would provide training for young people with a focus on engaging them with the community and finding secure employment.**

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**YMCA acting chief executive Shane Dunne said the centre would focus on prevention and early intervention.**

"[It] will have a key focus on early school leavers to assist young people aged between 16 and 21... to ensure they do not fall through the gaps."

The plans have come under fire from some local residents who fear the centre will be a half-way house for youth with drug and alcohol problems.

An anonymous letter sent to the Weekly claimed residents had concerns with potential "noise issues" and "youths smoking outside the facility" as well as its affect on house values.

Mr Dunne said the centre would not be a "half-way house" and would not provide any drug or alcohol rehabilitation programs - nor would it be targeting young people recently released from prison.

A maximum of eight young people would live at the facility and a YMCA staff member would be on site at all times.

"The services we will provide are proactive activities and not crisis support services.

"We appreciate that some local residents are feeling concerned about something new and unknown coming into their neighbourhood, but we also have support from many other local community members."

He said the YMCA took residents' concerns seriously and would welcome the opportunity to work through any issues.

The YMCA hopes to lodge plans for the Youth Foyer with Moonee Valley Council soon.

**BENEFIT FOR ALL IN MOONEE VALLEY RACECOURSE PLANS: MVRC**

*Moonee Valley Leader – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/benefits-for-all-in-racecourse-plans-mvrc/>

A NEW park, more jobs, better streets and a community centre have been spruiked as the benefits of a redeveloped Moonee Valley Racecourse.

Moonee Valley Racing Club released today a Net Community Benefit Statement for its racecourse master plan, which could include up to four 20 storey apartment towers next to the iconic racetrack.

The community benefit statement was released despite the master plan - which contains details on specific apartment numbers - not having been made public.

That is expected to happen on May 30.

The statement presents economic, social and environmental benefits of the proposed redevelopment, with a brief outline of specific projects.

These include:

- Improving the streetscapes of McPherson, Dean, Thomas and Wilson streets;

- A new multi-purpose community centre, within the development or contribution towards facilities off-site, including a kindergarten and maternal child health suites; and

- A new neighbourhood park of at least 3000 m sq on the edge of the site fronting McPherson St.

There is no mention in the statement about the density of housing or the proposed height of the apartments.

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But the racing club says such a development would include “dwellings at an affordable price” and present “an alternative for first home buyers with the associated benefit of reduced transport costs to various inner urban employment centres”.

MVRC chief executive Michael Browell said there was a focus on mutual benefit for the racing club and community.

“Considerable work has gone into preparing a plan whose intent is to ensure the long term viability of the club through the creation of a sustainable residential and mixed use precinct for Moonee Ponds,” said MVRC chief executive Michael Browell.

“We look forward to presenting these and other benefits of the proposed redevelopment when the draft master plan is released on May 30.”

There has been high community angst over the Moonee Valley Racecourse development, particularly from residents neighbouring the racetrack.

There are concerns the development would add to traffic congestion and not fit within the character of the neighbourhood.

The club is hosting three public information forums to seek feedback about its proposals.

Residents and traders will be able to view images and drawings from the draft master plan, ask questions and provide feedback prior to the submission of the final master plan with Moonee Valley Council.

Feedback will be accepted from Monday, May 30 to Sunday, June 26.

## WYNDHAM

### MAN DIES AFTER CHEMICAL INCIDENT IN LAVERTON NORTH

*Wyndham Weekly – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/man-dies-after-chemical-incident-in-laverton-north/2168566.aspx>

A MAN has died from suspected exposure to chemicals following an explosion at a factory in Laverton North today.

Three workmates tried to revive the man in his mid-50s before paramedics arrived at the scene and applied protective gear and continued to perform CPR.

But after suffering a heart attack, the man could not be revived.

MFB spokesperson John Rees said it appears the man tried to self decontaminate by washing the chemicals off in a shower, but collapsed following the incident at the Nufarm chemical plant on Pipe Road about 11.15am.

**Police believe the man was working on an exterior pipeline at the factory when a flange broke spraying him with a toxic chemical. The man ingested some of the acid based solvent and died at the scene.**

**Four other men, who were effected by the chemical after assisting the dying man, were transported to hospital for treatment.**

Police, WorkSafe, and MFB are currently at the scene investigating the incident. WorkSafe spokesperson Michael Birt said this was the third work-related death in the past month in Victoria prompting a plea for all employers, workers, contractors and sub contractors to look safely at the jobs they're doing and have a clear understanding of the safety precautions.

More details to come.

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### MAN DIES AFTER EXPOSURE TO MOLTEN PHENOL AT NUFARM FACTORY IN LAVERTON NORTH

*Herald Sun – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/man-dies-after-chemical-exposure-at-laverton-north-factory/story-e6frf716-1226059159614>

A MAN has died from chemical exposure after a pipe carrying a toxic substance burst at a large factory in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Three workmates and a workplace nurse desperately tried to save the man in his mid-50s at the Nufarm farm chemicals factory in Laverton North, after he collapsed in decontamination shower and suffered a cardiac arrest.

Paramedics and MFB officers donned protective gear before they too unsuccessfully tried to revive the man.

It is understood the man was exposed to a fatal dose of molten phenol, a chemical used in the manufacturer of farm pesticides at the Pipe Rd plant.

Police said the man was working on an exterior pipeline when the pipe connection failed, spraying him with the toxic chemical about 11.15am.

During an attempt to wash the chemicals off in a shower the man collapsed.

He was pulled from the shower, but attempts by fellow workers and emergency crew failed to revive him.

Five other workmates - including four who tried to resuscitate him - were assessed for exposure.

Another man suffering a minor chemical burn to his arm during the incident. He was taken to the Western Hospital at Footscray in a stable condition.

Authorities took the emergency call at 11.19am, with the first ambulance crew on the scene less than 10 minutes later.

Nufarm is one of the world's biggest manufacturers of farm pesticides and other farm chemicals.

MFB spokesman John Taylor said its scientific officer and dangerous goods unit were involved in an investigation into the incident.

Molten phenol is classed as an S6 poison, considered to have "moderate to high toxicity".

Information about the chemical warns it is toxic through contact with the skin or if swallowed. It also causes burns and exposure risks serious damage to the eyes.

The chemical is also flammable, and can give off toxic fumes while burning.

Chemical safety advice is that anyone exposed to the chemical should use overalls, full face shield, elbow-length impervious gloves, splash apron and rubber boots.

A report is expected to be prepared for the coroner, while WorkSafe is also investigating.

The chemical also features as a dangerous explosive substance in the film about a runaway train Unstoppable.

WorkSafe spokesman Michael Birt said the death was a grim reminder for employers and workers to "make their workplaces as safe as possible".

He said **the death had been the third in the past month, while 23 people had died in workplace accidents in the past year.**

### FOURTH LIBRARY STOCK UP IN WYNDHAM VALE

*Wyndham Leader – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/fourth-library-stocks-up-in-wyndham-vale/>

BOOKS arrived last week for a new public library opening soon at Wyndham Vale.

The \$8.3 million Wyndham Vale Community Learning Centre, including kindergarten and maternal and child health consulting rooms, opens in July at the corner of Manor Lakes Blvd and Howqua Way.

It is Wyndham's fourth public library. Others are at Werribee, Hoppers Crossing and Point Cook.

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**The council has contributed \$4.46 million towards the new community centre.**

**The State Government has given \$1.5 million and the Federal Government, \$2.34 million.**

**THIS IS WERRIBEE SOUTH JIM, JUST NOT AS WE KNOW IT**

*The Age – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/this-is-werribee-south-jim-but-not-as-we-know-it-20110517-1erf2.html>



Developers of Wyndham Harbour, a new residential subdivision and marina being built at Werribee South, have been warned they need to deliver more than just housing at the sensitive Port Phillip Bay location.

But **Planning Minister Matthew Guy** championed the development on a visit yesterday.

"Wyndham Harbour will have ongoing economic, social and environmental benefits for the area," he said.

It has been far from smooth sailing for marinas in Melbourne in recent years - the developer of the Martha Cove marina went into receivership in 2009.

Wyndham Council's sustainable development director, Greg Aplin, said the council had safeguards in place to ensure public facilities were delivered at the Wyndham Harbour development.

Mr Aplin said the council had "access to developer finances if the worst thing were to happen and they were to go belly up".

He said the council "thought the notion of a safe harbour or a marina at that location was a good idea, but we didn't want to hand over a residential subdivision abutting Port Phillip Bay".

"The public good was the marina, the retail, the beaches, the section of the bay trail they funded and a whole lot of environmental works, so we have set up agreement after agreement to ensure all those things are brought to fruition," he said.

Planning agreements were about "keeping the developer true to his word".

The Liberman family is the main shareholder in the development. A public relations company representing the developer said: "After 25 years of planning, the \$440 million harbour precinct will be a world-class activity and cultural centre offering a marina, safe boat harbour, luxury waterfront homes and lush green parks with walking and bike trails amongst a tranquil setting."

The Western Region Environment Centre's Harry van Moorst said what started as a safe harbour had turned into a housing development.

"This is a residential development it was never meant to be. It was seen as a safe harbour, typically it has been planning incremental creep that eats away at green wedges," he said.

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He said the developer should not have been allowed to reduce its plans for a major wetlands system.

The developer would instead provide "a site-based stormwater management and treatment system".

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## ACROSS THE REGION

### FRICION AS VICTORIA GETS FRACTION OF FUNDS

*The Herald Sun – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/record-number-of-commuters-squeezed-into-peak-hour-trains/story-fn7x8me2-1226057051406>

COMMUTERS are being squashed in like sardines on overcrowded morning peak-hour trains.

**New data from the Department of Transport shows almost one-in-three morning peak-hour trains are overcrowded with more than 1000 passengers on some journeys along the busier lines.**

**And the problem is only going to get worse, with the Victorian Government forecasting massive growth in public-transport patronage over the next 12 months.**

The latest Metro Trains survey obtained under Freedom of Information and seen by the Herald Sun shows passenger numbers are up on all lines except Werribee.

The survey shows more than 25 per cent of trains in morning peak hour now carry more than 800 people.

And the sharp rise in delays and cancellations means that 5 per cent of morning rush-hour trains - often those in the key 8.30-9am period - end up carrying more than 1000 passengers.

Passenger numbers in the morning peak rose 4.5 per cent to 135,458 but the evening rush hour remains the busiest time with 141,629 commuters taking trains.

And the 2011-12 Budget papers show the squeeze on passengers will worsen as there are no new trains but patronage will jump with an expected 18.8 million trips to be taken.

Transport Minister Terry Mulder blames years of neglect under Labor for the overcrowding. "We have inherited a public-transport system with significant and long-standing problems, which will not be easily fixed," he said.

After a lengthy review, the Coalition Government is pressing ahead with the \$4.3 billion Regional Rail Link project to separate country and suburban trains in the west aimed at improving travel times.

The new Public Transport Development Authority is also establishing an audit of the state of Victoria's rail assets.

**Metro claims recent timetable changes and the rollout of new X'Trapolis trains will help ease the overcrowding.**

But Greens MP Greg Barber said the Government and Metro needed to start coming up with solutions and investing for the long term.

"They may think the problem's gone away but these numbers show different," he said. "Eight lines showed an increase in overcrowding from already high levels."

Opposition transport spokeswoman Fiona Richardson said patronage was going up but the Coalition had done absolutely nothing to tackle the overcrowding problem.

"Every commuter who travels on a train, tram or bus would agree that the Liberal minister's decision not to invest in any additional train services, trams or bus services will become an astronomical disaster," she said.

### CITY FRINGE DWELLERS FEEL SERVICE VACUUM

*The Australian – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

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<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/city-fringe-dwellers-feel-service-vacuum/story-fn59niix-1226055614826>

THE Meyer family are in the eye of the population storm. Their new house, in a freshly paved street in Point Cook, is both on the fringe of Melbourne's settlement and at the heart of the fast-expanding outer suburbs where people are moving to live in record numbers.

Byron and Jannette Meyer love their home and emerging neighbourhood. They also think the government's idea of creating more jobs in the outer suburbs where people live -- rather than expecting everyone to commute to the city -- is a sound one. Yet they say much more needs to be done to resolve the crisis in services that is at the frontline of the population debate. "It's no good just building houses and putting a school up, they need to build around the basics," Mr Meyer said.

"When there's a community festival everyone is there, but there's nothing for teenagers to do, no community sports centre. After 7pm everything shuts down."

He said travelling 26km to work in the city was a "nightmare" and public transport was too far away and too infrequent. The few roads in and out of the network of estates are bottlenecks in the morning and evening rush hours. The Meyers moved to Point Cook from South Africa four years ago and have watched the rows of neatly tiled roofs sprout at an extraordinary rate. They recently moved into a second house.

About 10,800 people moved into the western Melbourne suburbs of Point Cook, Wyndham Vale, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Laverton and Werribee last financial year -- the equivalent of about 30 new residents a day.

The Sustainable Population Strategy listed job creation in suburbs like these, and improving the planning of new housing estates, as priorities to ensure cities could cope with booming populations.

**LeadWest, an advocacy group for the region, says the government's strategy is smart but businesses will not move to outer suburbs without good**

**telecommunications and transport. One of the key transport requirements of Melbourne's west, as identified by infrastructure guru Rod Eddington, is a second road crossing to the eastern suburbs.**

**"The existing major road is at capacity," LeadWest's Anton Mayer said.**

**"Even if you develop more jobs, we need that second strategic road crossing and we will continue to say that to the government.**

### **TRAIN PAIN LOOMS AS THREE LINES FACE 18 DAY CLOSURE**

*The Age – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

[http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/train-pain-looms-as-three-lines-face-18day-closure-20110517-1erf0.html?from=age\\_sb](http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/train-pain-looms-as-three-lines-face-18day-closure-20110517-1erf0.html?from=age_sb)

Thousands of V/Line and Metro rail commuters will be forced on to buses or into cars for two weeks in July after the Baillieu government agreed to shut down three lines - Ballarat, Bendigo and Sydenham - for repairs and construction works.

Ballarat and Bendigo commuters will have to catch replacement buses that will add more than 45 minutes each way to peak-hour journeys.

**And the closure of the Sydenham line, to Melbourne's western suburbs, will be the first of at least three such closures planned between now and January 2014, as the \$5 billion Regional Rail Link project is built.**

"There will be further shutdowns," Transport Minister Terry Mulder said yesterday.

Mr Mulder called on passengers to "be patient. We will have a far better railway system at the end of it".

He said maintenance and construction work "can't happen when the trains are running".

But the opposition questioned this, with public transport spokeswoman Fiona Richardson saying Mr Mulder was not fighting hard enough for passengers, instead only relying on the advice of bureaucrats.

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"Since taking over public transport, this minister has been all too willing to roll over and say yes to whatever proposal hits his desk, no matter how it disadvantages commuters," she said.

The works - being done between July 1 and 18, during the school holidays to minimise disruption - will see the Sydenham rail tracks moved, to make space for the new Regional Rail Link tracks.

The Regional Rail Link project is designed to give V/Line trains their own set of tracks for the first time, to separate them from suburban services.

During the July shutdown, buses will replace Metro trains on then Sydenham line between Albion and Footscray.

And from both Albion and Sunshine stations there will be "express" buses to Flemington Racecourse station. Trains will then run from Flemington to North Melbourne and the CBD.

New bus interchange areas will be built at Albion and Flemington Racecourse to cope with the influx of passengers, and a temporary pedestrian bridge will also be built at Albion station. Metro trains will still run between Sydenham and Sunshine.

For V/Line, a fleet of 200 buses will be put on as replacement services for regional trains on both the Ballarat and Bendigo routes. During the two-week shutdown, maintenance works will be carried out on country lines, and by Metro on suburban tracks. The electrification of the Sunbury line will also be fast-tracked.

Metro will put in new sleepers, replace overhead wiring, and do maintenance works at Middle Footscray, Tottenham, Keilor Plains, Watergardens and St Albans stations. V/Line will repair embankments and renew drainage along tracks, among other works.

### **RAIL CLOSURE TO HIT TRAVEL TIMES**

*The Age – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/rail-closures-to-hit-travel-times-20110517-1eqnn.html>

Commuters from regional Victoria and Melbourne's west face major delays in July due to track works.

The state government has announced the work will be carried out from July 1 to July 18 as part of the Regional Rail Link project.

Buses will replace V/Line trains on the Ballarat and Bendigo lines. Buses will also run between the Albion and Footscray railway stations on the Sydenham line.

Express buses will carry commuters from Albion and Sunshine railway stations direct to Flemington Racecourse station.

Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder said V/Line trains would have separate tracks from suburban trains for the first time.

"Suburban trains will no longer be stuck behind country trains and vice versa," he said.

"This will also mean that suburban trains on the Werribee, Sydenham and Craigieburn lines will be more reliable."

PTUA regional spokesman Paul Westcott said the closure of a suburban stations for more than two weeks was "completely unprecedented".

He said the shutdown of suburban trains would cause "massive disruptions".

### **PASSENGERS CRYING ON A STUCK V/LINE TRAIN**

*The Age – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/record-number-of-commuters-squeezed-into-peak-hour-trains/story-fn7x8me2-1226057051406>

A SHOPPING trolley on a train track has caused commuters to be stuck for more than two hours on the Werribee and Geelong lines this evening.

V/Line spokesman Daniel Moloney said a Metro train was completely disabled when it struck the trolley near Hoppers Crossing at about 6pm.

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A V/Line train packed with 400 Geelong commuters has been stuck for almost two hours behind the broken-down train.

"Metro has advised us they are going to cease all their trains running the other way city-bound, which will allow us to jump onto the wrong track and slowly go around," he said.

"It has taken a lot longer to clear than we initially expected, the trolley is completely entangled underneath the Metro train.

"It is an act of vandalism in the sense that it is a completely stupid act that has seriously inconvenienced thousands of people tonight."

**V/Line commuter Mandy Oakham said people on the train were in tears and distressed.**

"They've turned the heating off, it is standing room only, we have just been told it will be another hour at least," she said.

"We have a woman here with diabetes who is extremely concerned about what will happen if she doesn't get food soon, we haven't been offered so much as a glass of water.

"We have people in tears here at the moment thinking we will be stuck here until the early hours of the morning, it's completely unacceptable."

Metro spokesman Chris Whitefield said the 200 passengers aboard the Metro train were taken off fairly quickly because they were close to a level crossing.

"We're running bus replacements between Laverton and Werribee and we're hoping the train to be towed by 9.15pm and the situation cleared," he said.

### *Brace for major works*

Meanwhile, western suburbs and country train commuters face massive disruptions due to major works in July.

The Sydenham, Ballarat and Bendigo lines will be shut from July 1 to July 18 to coincide with school holidays.

Buses will replace trains on the Sydenham line between Albion and Footscray.

Those buses will run from Albion and Sunshine to the Flemington Racecourse platform.

Buses will also replace V/Line services on the Ballarat and Bendigo lines.

The works are part of the Regional Rail Link project to separate V/Line and Metro trains in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder said there would be inconvenience.

"This temporary shutdown will allow construction and maintenance work on rail lines that can't be done while the trains are running," Mr Mulder said.

"Be patient, because in the end we will have a far better rail system."

### *Peak-hour hell*

The news comes as new data from the Department of Transport shows almost one-in-three morning peak-hour trains are overcrowded, with more than 1000 passengers on some journeys along the busier lines.

And the problem is only going to get worse, with the Victorian Government forecasting massive growth in public-transport patronage over the next 12 months.

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### LOVE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

*BRW – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

[http://www.brw.com.au/p/sections/fyi/love\\_and\\_infrastructure\\_VrXzEiljGki820AaQ1ytnJ?hl](http://www.brw.com.au/p/sections/fyi/love_and_infrastructure_VrXzEiljGki820AaQ1ytnJ?hl)

Can better infrastructure planning create more love in our lives, as well as improve productivity?

Sure can, according to Steve Lennon from design and engineering company Arup. "“For the people who love you, time equals love,” he says. “Quality time has become a poor excuse for not spending enough time with family, work friends and kids. So if time equals love, time spent in [traffic] congestion ... gets me.”

Lennon posed this summary of urban planning problems at a recent forum in Melbourne tackling the subject of “Making cities work for people.” **As chilling evidence for the proposition, data from Hoppers Crossing, a growth suburb in Melbourne’s south-west, shows that the long commute between home and work has contributed to marriage breakdown – 60 per cent of households are headed by single mothers.**

Of course, traffic congestion also hinders productivity, affecting the nation’s wealth as well as its happiness. However, the panel of experts agreed that personal needs should be at the centre of planning decisions.

**Australia has a \$300 billion backlog of infrastructure projects for the next decade, according to federal government authority Infrastructure Australia, and a \$700 billion backlog, according to the membership body Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.**

A lot of money is going into infrastructure. In March 2011, the *Deloitte Access Economics-Arup Investment Monitor* recorded \$767.5 billion of infrastructure projects under way or in planning, comprising 843 investment projects valued at \$20 million or more.

**Lennon says infrastructure planning must shift from a project-by-project focus to systems thinking, taking into account the complexity of the city as a whole.**

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“Hard” elements of infrastructure such as the size, shape and cost of road or rail systems are thoroughly considered but “soft” elements, such as the community’s health or a sense of place are glossed over, if they are considered at all.

By way of contrast, Arup quoted a project with the Knox City Council, about 25 kilometres south-east of Melbourne’s CBD. The council engaged Arup to create

new jobs and make a Knox a destination that people would want to go to as well as live and work in.

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