

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



For past editions please visit www.leadwest.com.au

BRIMBANK	3	HEAPS OF FREE FUN MAKES FOR A FANTASTIC FUNTASIA	14
SPORTS CLUB GETS OK FOR NEW POKIES	4	TROLLEYS TRUMP CARS AT SHOPS	15
PUTTING LIGHT ON TROUBLED STREET SPOT	4	PAST 40, AND DOING IT TOUGH	15
GOLF COURSE JOBS FEARS	5	STATE CAR THEFT CAPITAL	16
PUNTING ON WEST COMMUTERS	5	BRIMBANK STAFF JOB SECURITY UNDER A CLOUD	16
COPS ON THE TRAIL	6	BRIMBANK TO RAMP UP ALCOHOL, DRUGS FIGHT	17
TOWER 'BREACHES' PLANNING LAWS	6	WATER RUNS CLEAN AGAIN	18
SUNSHINE LIBRARY BURSTING AT THE SEAMS	7	VCAL FUNDING CUTS SLAMMED	18
RAIL DIN SET TO WORSEN	7	HOBSONS BAY	19
WASTE BUSINESS COPS \$6000 FINE	8	GETTING A FREE PUNT ON THE YARRA	20
WAYS TO HELP	9	BULLYING MOVE	20
GET READY FOR NOISE ON THE LINE	9	CROWD TURNS OUT FOR AUTISM NIGHT	21
COUNCIL SEEKS BIG IDEAS	10	WARM GREETING FOR BISHOP	21
CAR PARK CRUSH	11	REWARD FOR WORK	22
COUNCIL WORKERS THREATEN STRIKE ACTION	11	CODE FOR CHANGE IN BROOKLYN	22
\$1.5M BIKE TRACK BID	12	CALLS FOR RETURN OF GELLIBRAND PILE LIGHT	23
MORE HOONS HERE THAN ANYWHERE	13	HOBSONS BAY: WE'LL TAKE SECOND-HAND SAND	24
BRIMBANK BOOMS	14	TOP BUSINESSES NAMED BY HOBSONS BAY COUNCIL	24
		HEAT'S ON IN KITCHEN BATTLE	25
		FROM LITTLE SEEDS	25

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



MARIBRYNONG.....	26	EAGLED-EYE MELTON STUDENTS	38
FOOTSCRAY CITY: STEINER PROGRAM, SCHOOL COUNCIL AXED	26	CONCERN AT URBAN DENSITY IN MELTON	39
WEST GATE: RELIEF, AS CHANGES MADE TO BRIDGE OF PAIN.....	27	VOTING IMPASSE AT MELTON COUNCIL	40
BINKS FORD SITE COULD HOUSE THOUSANDS	28	MELTON ON THE NBN BANDWAGON	40
SCREENING 'NOTHING TO FEAR'.....	29	MELTON AMBOS CHOOSE TO SHUN DEATH HIGHWAY	41
FOOTSCRAY CITY EDGE: GREEN HAVEN TO TRANSFORM CBD	30	MELTON STATION CAR PARK WORK 'URGENT'	42
MARIBYRNONG'S RATEPAYERS 'CAN'T GET NO SATISFACTION'	31	VCAL FUNDING CUTS 'HURT VULNERABLE STUDENTS'	42
NO DIGITAL DUFFERS, THANKS TO ANDREW.....	31	MOORABOOL COUNCIL, FEDS IN ROADS TALKS.....	43
REGIONAL RAIL LINK: NO BARRIERS SO IT'S EARPLUGS FOR NOW.....	32	EVICTON FEARS DELAY BACCHUS MARSH RESERVE UPGRADE.....	44
PLAN FOR FEWER TRUCKS HITS A DEAD END	33	MELTON STATION CAR PARK WORK 'URGENT'	45
MARIBYRNONG COUNCIL CONCERNED OVER LOSS OF PLANNING CONTROL ...	33	MELTON AMBOS CHOOSE TO SHUN DEATH HIGHWAY	45
BIG PLANS TO STOP TRUCKS	34	AVENUE OF HONOUR FATE IN MINISTER'S HANDS.....	46
PRICE HIKE.....	34	MOORABOOL COUNCIL SLATED OVER TURBINES	47
FITTING TRIBUTE	35	MORE FAMILIES FALL INTO SPIRAL OF POVERTY	48
FEW KNOW MARIBYRNONG MAYOR.....	35	CHOPPER COPPER PAYS A FLYING VISIT TO MELTON.....	48
B-DOUBLE WEAVE WORRY IN FOOTSCRAY	36	HEALTHY HABITATS REWARDED IN MELTON AND MOORABOOL.....	49
MELTON	37	MELTON COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF	49
MELTON MP JOINS DUPLICATION FIGHT	37	MOONEE VALLEY	50
WORK ON DIGGERS REST STATION POWERS ON.....	37	MOONEE VALLEY RACECOURSE MASTER PLAN	50
MELTON RAIL STATION MISSES OUT ON UPGRADE	38	ASCOT VALE CASE GOES TO VCAT	51

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



ESSENDON'S AFTON STREET WETLAND NEEDS FRIENDS TO RELY ON	51	TRUGANINA WORKS A TRAFFIC HAZARD	62
MOONEE VALLEY BURGLARIES ON THE RISE	52	ON TRAIL OF WAYWARD WYNDHAM RIDERS	63
THUMBS UP FOR COUNCIL	52	DISABILITY SHOVE-OFF AT WERRIBEE PLAZA	63
SCIENCEWORKS OFFERS NIGHT OUT	53	SUN SHINES ON WERRIBEE PARK PICNIC	64
ESSENDON'S AFTON STREET WETLAND NEEDS FRIENDS TO RELY ON	53	THEIR KIND OF MUSIC KICKS THE FESTIVAL ALONG.....	64
MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL, RESIDENTS WAIT ON 'DAIRY' D-DAY	54	ACROSS THE REGION.....	64
AT BUCKLEY PARK COLLEGE, CUTS RUN DEEP	54	TITLE OF ARTICLE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
MOONEE VALLEY'S BREKKIE SUCCESS SPREADS	55	TITLE OF ARTICLE	Error! Bookmark not defined.
COX PLATE CROWDS DOWN, BUT BEHAVIOUR'S BETTER	55		
MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL, RESIDENTS WAIT ON 'DAIRY' D-DAY	56		
WYNDHAM	56		
FINDING A VOICE OUT WEST	57		
COUNCIL STAFF DELAY VOTE ON WORK BANS	57		
POINT COOK POOL: WHY DELAY REVIEW?	58		
VET FEARS ON 'HARMLESS' FAMILY PETS BEING PUT DOWN.....	58		
VCAL CUTS: SCHOOLS PONDER BUDGET RE-THINK	59		
POINT COOK POOL: RESIDENTS VOW TO PRESS ON.....	60		
WIN FOR WYNDHAM VALE	60		
BIGGER THINGS TO COME TARNEIT SCHOOL'S WAY	61		
RAIL DIN SET TO WORSEN.....	61		

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



BRIMBANK

SPORTS CLUB GETS OK FOR NEW POKIES

Brimbank Leader– 27th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/sports-club-gets-ok-for-new-pokies/>

Five extra poker machines will be installed at the St Albans Sports Club.

It comes after the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal overturned a Brimbank Council decision to refuse an application for the machines because it was against its gaming policy.

In its appeal, the club said the extra machines would help finance facilities for sport clubs, including an indoor netball stadium for the St Albans Netball Association.

In August, the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation supported the club's proposal to increase its machines to 35 because it was tied to the provision of extra netball facilities.

In handing down the decision on October 13, VCAT member Elizabeth Benz said the extra machines would benefit the community. "Given the machines are being relocated within the capped region to an area of marginally less social disadvantage, the outcome at worst would be neutral and would in all probability be positive for the community," she said.

"The club will be able to upgrade the sporting facilities it has and will ... reach into the community, particularly women and teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds."

St Albans Sports Club general manager Des Barnard said: "We've now got to sit down with the council and see what they will let us build, and see if they want to form a partnership, because there is a lot of work to do."

The council's city development general manager Stephen Sully said the council was disappointed but would not appeal.

Brimbank is a capped region, with 953 machines across 15 venues, or 6.93 machines per 1000 adults. The state average is 6.2.

PUTTING LIGHT ON TROUBLED STREET SPOT

Brimbank Leader– 26th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/putting-light-on-troubled-street-spot/>

A hot spot for anti-social behaviour in Sunshine could soon receive an upgrade.

The Brimbank Council will apply for a grant from the Department of Justice's Public Safety Infrastructure Fund to develop pedestrian and security lighting in Clarke St.

Is Clarke St Sunshine's most notorious spot for anti-social behaviour? Tell us below.

Local traders say the area is a "hot spot" for anti-social behaviour, and in August sent a petition to the council with seven signatures, to remove the public seating in the strip which they said provided an area for young people to congregate.

Clarke St is also used as a pedestrian throughfare from the station to other sites in Sunshine.

At a meeting last week, the council agreed to apply to the fund, which provides grants of up to \$250,000.

A 2009 Community Survey found Sunshine residents rated the perceived levels of safety in public areas at night considerably lower than residents in Keilor, St Albans and Sydenham.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Increasing lighting in public areas was seen as a way to improve this.

GOLF COURSE JOBS FEARS

Brimbank Leader– 26th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/golf-course-jobs-fears/>

Parks and garden staff at Brimbank Council will meet with chief executive Nick Foa this week in a bid to end industrial unrest.

The conflict began when the council prepared to contract out the management and maintenance of Keilor Golf Course in September.

Tensions mounted in Sydenham last week after about 45 council staff and community members descended on a council meeting decked out in bright yellow T-shirts with “No Contracting Out” and “Save Our Jobs” emblazoned on the front and back.

A petition with 442 signatures and a letter with 41 signatures were tabled at the meeting, objecting to the council’s proposal to tender the work.

Australian Services Union organiser Russell McGregor said without a commitment from the council, employees would continue to ask questions.

Mr McGregor, who met with administrators Peter Lewinsky and Joanne Anderson on Friday morning, said jobs were “realistically under threat”.

“Our position is not a hard position,” he said.

“We just want an honest answer, and transparency to the highest degree, which we don’t think is unreasonable.”

Last Tuesday, Mr Foa told the employees that the council had not yet made a decision.

“Should council make a decision to contract out, these staff have been guaranteed jobs with the council,” he said.

Infrastructure and Environment general manager Paul Younis stressed last month the suggestion that jobs were at risk was “totally wrong”.

“In fact, there has been an unprecedented increase in the level of resources in this area,” Mr Younis said.

He noted the council had given a commitment to staff employed at the golf club that they would be redeployed into the broader parks maintenance area if a private provider was eventually engaged.

The council employs 80 staff in its Parks Services Unit, five of whom maintain the golf course.

The next meeting is this Thursday, October 27, at the council’s municipal office in Sunshine.

PUNTING ON WEST COMMUTERS

Brimbank Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/punting-on-west-commuters-fbready/>

Cyclists in the west have a new link to the city.

State Government Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder announced last week that the West Gate Punt bicycle and pedestrian ferry under the West Gate Bridge would now operate on week days to cater for a major increase in daily bike commuting.

Mr Mulder said the new week-day services crossing the Yarra River would help provide a cost effective and time saving link for cyclists and pedestrians travelling between the inner west, Port Melbourne and the CBD.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



State Western Metropolitan Greens MP Colleen Hartland said the \$1.4 million investment came after years of campaigning for government to support the punt as a public transport and cycling link.

“Every year the number of bicycle commuters in the west grows and infrastructure must be established to accommodate this positive move from the car to bicycle,” she said.

Ms Hartland said the punt allowed cyclists to avoid “dangerous and polluted” trucking routes.

The punt, with a capacity for 12 passengers with bicycles, will operate every 20 minutes from 6.30am to 9.30am and 4pm to 7pm on week days and links the Bay Trail West cycle trail to the Bay Trail.

Travel will be free until November 4 and \$2 per trip after then.

COPS ON THE TRAIL

Brimbank Star— 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/sunshne-ardeer-albion/319/story/142925.html>

Police from Wyndham and Brimbank are joining forces in an attempt to stamp out life-endangering motorcyclists and trail bike riders in the western suburbs.

Last week Victoria Police announced that the two municipality’s Highway Patrol Units would work together to target troublesome two-wheel drivers, utilising the Wyndham off Road Motorcycle Unit.

Acting Sergeant of the Wyndham Highway Patrol, Graeme Crouch, said that illegal motorbike and trail bike activity was a constant threat to resident’s safety.

“It’s a huge, massive problem,” Acting Sgt Crouch told Star.

“Residents can’t walk around parks or other areas safely because these people are terrorising their neighbourhoods with this erratic behaviour.”

“We’ve had a lot of near misses. It’s a disaster waiting to happen.”

As part of the operation, two motorbikes have also been loaned to the Highway Patrol by Wyndham City Council.

Acting Sgt Crouch said drivers could face minimum on-the-spot fines of \$1500 if they are caught riding an unregistered motorbike on council property. It is even more of they are not wearing a helmet.

Inspector Bill Weatherly said in addition to law enforcement, rider education would be a key focus of the operation.

“While we will prosecute offenders for serious or repeated breaches of the law, we are also aiming to inform and educate riders of their obligations, not only on the roads but also in parklands, reserves and wetlands,” Insp Weatherly said.

TOWER 'BREACHES' PLANNING LAWS

Brimbank Weekly— 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/tower-breaches-planning-laws/2333882.aspx>

A community group has accused Brimbank Council of breaching planning laws in allowing changes to the Metrowest 'Three Tower' development in Sunshine.

The Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association (SunRRA), a long-term opponent of the scale of the project, is incensed that the council has approved an increase in the project's density from 158 units to 193.

A permit issued by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in 2007 allows the building of a 'podium' with three towers - two up to nine levels and one at eight levels.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



But SunRRA president Darlene Reilly is seeking legal advice to see if the council has breached the Planning and Environment Act by authorising changes to the development planned for the corner of Hampshire and Foundry roads in Sunshine.

"We believe council has erred by approving changes that run contrary to the permit preamble and conditions, and that council should have referred these changes to VCAT as is required under the Planning Act," she said.

The new plans allow an increase in apartment density and parking, which SunRRA argues will impact heavily on Sunshine.

Brimbank's administrators conceded the decision to allow the changes was difficult as the building was of a greater scale than any existing Sunshine development.

Chairman Peter Lewinsky said the council was seeking the best outcome for the community.

"Our decision was made after taking advice from the planners and careful evaluation of the matter before us."

Works must begin by May 2013 after the council allowed a third extension to the starting date.

SUNSHINE LIBRARY BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

Brimbank Weekly— 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/sunshine-library-bursting-at-the-seams/2333876.aspx>

Sunshine library is a victim of its own popularity and needs to expand to meet demand, according to a report to last week's council meeting.

The council is seeking state government funding to help pay for a \$1.5 million redevelopment to increase library floor space by 50 per cent.

General Manager of community well-being Kelly Grigsby said the council would match 'living libraries infrastructure' program funding of \$750,000 if it was successful in receiving a grant.

"The funding program provides an exciting opportunity to redevelop the Sunshine library to create an active edge along the Hampshire Road frontage and create extended floor space using an innovative design to enhance the use of the facility," she said.

Ms Grigsby said the library was one of the busiest in the western suburbs.

Successful funding would allow floor space to expand from 1260 square metres to 1800 square metres and create a space for more computers, materials and programs.

A glass wall would link the library with Hampshire Road and make it more inviting for users.

"Sunshine library is now experiencing a significant number of visitors spending longer periods of time in the library," the report said.

"This change in use has an effect on noise levels, which is exacerbated by the building's design and high level of usage."

Successful applicants will be announced in December and any work would begin late next year.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



RAIL DIN SET TO WORSEN

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/rail-din-set-to-worsen/2333879.aspx>

Noise levels are expected to increase along the rail line between Sunshine and Deer Park due to the Regional Rail Link project.

A Regional Rail Link Authority report predicts average noise level increases of up to five decibels at some locations.

But the authority is designing the route without barriers due to a lack of government policy and concerns over the fairness of selecting some areas but not others.

"This will be a discernible but not substantial change to existing noise levels," the report found.

"This increase is due to the greater intensification in the number of services as a result of the Geelong services being routed onto this section of the rail corridor."

The Sunshine to Deer Park corridor has two off-peak and 3.5 peak trains each way per hour but is expected to surge to six off-peak and 17 peak trains each way per hour by 2024.

Estimates for noise barrier costs ranged from \$21 million to \$49 million.

The first stage of the \$5.3 billion project includes two new tracks between Moonee Ponds Creek and Sunshine, upgrade works on the rail bridge over Kororoit Creek, a new rail-over-road separation at Robinsons Road in Deer Park, and improvements at Sunshine station.

Victoria has no guidelines for maximum railway noise and vibration impacts, but current noise limits exceed NSW guidelines in numerous locations, including Sunshine, Ardeer and Deer Park.

Transport Minister Terry Mulder said the government was developing a noise policy and would start community consultation early next year.

"The Victorian Government has already acted to provide greater certainty and restore transparency in decision-making around rail projects by releasing a draft framework for noise from future passenger rail investments in Victoria that articulates four principles for managing and mitigating noise from future passenger rail infrastructure," Mr Mulder said.

Regional Rail Link CEO Corey Hannett said it would respond to any further policy development and instruct contractors accordingly.

WASTE BUSINESS COPS \$6000 FINE

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/waste-business-cops-6000-fine/2333884.aspx>

A Brooklyn business has been hit with a \$6000 fine after twice being caught burning industrial waste.

Demolition waste recycling business K & K Property Holdings was fined by EPA Victoria for breaching the Environment Protection Act over two incidents in March.

The EPA has been cracking down on illegal activity in the dust and odour-plagued area, with director Chris Webb labelling the behaviour unacceptable.

"Burning waste without a permit is illegal. There are safer, more environmentally responsible ways to dispose of demolition and industrial waste, scrap metal and equipment."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



EPA officers say they found K & K Property Holdings to be breaking the law twice during regular visits.

They said they tried to contact the business several times, but it did not respond.

The EPA had already served it with a pollution abatement notice in May last year, requiring a dust management plan for the site.

The company has 28 days to pay the fine, seek a review or have the matter dealt with in court.

The fine comes as the EPA and Brimbank Council continue a joint blitz on Brooklyn businesses.

Council general manager of city development Stephen Sully said the EPA and council undertook full checks of planning permits and licence agreements on 15 businesses.

"Further follow-up inspections are still to be undertaken to tidy up some of the compliance in regards to adequate site management procedures."

The council hopes to have a better understanding of land use and business activity in the Brooklyn industrial area when a \$100,000 Victorian Census of Land Use and Employment study is finished this month.

WAYS TO HELP

Brimbank Star— 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/stalbans-deer-park-caroline-springs/319/story/142945.html>

Community groups across Brimbank banded together last week in a bid to raise awareness of the area's more disadvantaged residents.

Sunshine Mission and Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services hosted forums during anti-poverty week to increase the community's understanding of the

constant battles many families are facing to secure a stable living and educational environment for their children.

Ces Martin, director of Sunshine Mission, said the organisation hosted a lunch which looked at the prevalent issue of Brimbank's homeless.

Ms Martin said the problem stemmed from a steady increase in rental prices in the last few years, often leaving tenants unable to pay rent and utilities.

"Another part of the problem is we don't have a lot of transitional or emergency housing," Ms Martin said.

She cited a recent incident where a mother of three was forced to find housing on the other side of city because there was no housing available in Brimbank.

Guest speakers also spoke about the steps to take if a tenant received a letter to vacate the premises or if they're were unwell and could not pay their bills.

Carmel Stafford, member of the Financial and Consumer Rights Council and co-ordinator of anti-poverty week activities, hosted a forum at Good Shepherd in St Albans, which looked at ways to ensure children would not miss out on schooling.

Guest speakers from St Albans Primary, Stevensville Primary and Copperfield College attended the meeting and discussed the measures the schools took to ensure every family could afford to send their child to camp or excursions.

St Albans Primary School's program which offers breakfast to students each morning needed to be implemented at many other schools, Ms Stafford said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



GET READY FOR NOISE ON THE LINE

Brimbank Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/sunshne-ardeer-albion/319/story/142923.html>

Sunshine, Deer Park and Footscray are set to get a whole lot louder with up to 19 extra trains running when the Regional Rail Link (RRL) is completed.

The RRL Authority's Noise Impact Assessment Report found that the highest noise levels are expected between Footscray and West Footscray stations, with sound up to 100 decibels predicted, while the greatest noise level increases –five decibel – will be felt between Sunshine and Deer Park.

The report states Sunshine-Deer Park corridor currently has between two trains per hour off-peak and three train's on-peak, but the RRL will cause this number to rise to six off-peak and 17 train on-peak.

The report notes that there are a number of initiatives that could be used to reduce the noise but that barriers couldn't be incorporated into the design because the Government has no "settled" policy.

Fair Go for Footscray Rail Residents spokesperson Nick Fahey said the report delivered a mixed bag for residents.

"The report doesn't give us what we want, which is noise protection and we're disappointed in that," Mr Fahey said.

"But on a positive note, the report finds heavily in favour of some sort of noise barrier. It's putting the onus back onto the Government to make some sort of policy."

He said he was hopeful of receiving a "reasonable response" from the Government but said it was a "critical time" for the project.

"If we don't as a community take action I think we will regret that," Mr Fahey said.

Brimbank Transport Action Group member and Sunshine resident Debbi Woods said the sound levels would be "terrible" for residents living near the rail line.

Ms Woods said the extra trains would also cause a headache for drivers.

"Can you imagine what Anderson Rd will be like? You won't be able to use it because the boom gates will be down all the time," Ms Woods said.

"Something has to be done about the transport and traffic on this side of town.

COUNCIL SEEKS BIG IDEAS

Brimbank Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/319/story/142943.html>

Brimbank Council is calling on Sydenham residents to get involved in the community and share their bright ideas.

The council will be hosting a local ideas day this Thursday for residents that are passionate about the suburb and would like to discuss possible improvements and significant issues with administrators.

Long-time Sydenham resident Marilyn Zukalski said youth services were lacking in the area which meant many youngsters were left with idle hands and lots of spare time.

A co-founder of the Sydenham Historical Society, she has been lobbying for a youth centre in the area for the best part of a decade and said this was probably the biggest issue affecting the family-friendly suburb.

"We can't just have a skate park in the area," Ms Zukalski said.

"We need youth workers. There's nothing for kids to do."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Ms Zukalski said while Brimbank was home to a thriving YMCA, it was rare to see youth workers in the area.

She also said a Neighbourhood Watch was imperative to the safety of the community.

Ms Zukalski was robbed only two years ago and said residents would feel much more secure knowing there was a relevant body to allay safety concerns, along with the police.

The ideas day will be held at Sydenham Community Centre on Thursday 27 October, from 4pm to 8pm. anyone interested in attending should fill out a registration form which can be obtained from the council's website.

CAR PARK CRUSH

Brimbank Star— 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/stalbans-deer-park-caroline-springs/319/story/142934.html>

Conrad St traders are furious Brimbank City Council has rejected their plea for extra parking.

A petition with 723 signatures was presented to the council in August, calling to increase the number of car parks near the Conrad St shopping strip in St Albans.

Traders and residents previously told Star there had been a number of accidents and shops were losing business because the 37 spaces along Conrad and Walter St were not enough (Out of space, St Albans Star, 23 August).

Council's General Manager of Infrastructure and Environment Paul Younis said council officers had carried out a traffic survey but found "at no stage during the nine hour period were all parking spaces fully occupied".

Mr Younis said creating additional car spaces could cost more than \$50,000 and said the supermarket were supposed to have built an additional six spaces as part of a 2006 planning permit, but had not yet done so.

Administrator Meredith Sussex said the report had made it "clear" that the cost of providing more spaces wasn't justified.

However, she said council would review the possibility of time-restricted parking.

"A lot of people have indicated this is a problem," Ms Sussex said.

"If it continues to increase we'll need to consider our options."

But FoodWorks supermarket owner Ali Khala said the council's decision was "a joke".

"We sent them a petition, we didn't even get a response, not even a phone call," Mr Khala said.

"That (six car parks) was if the supermarket did an extension, which we never did."

He said traders were still seeing near-misses and accidents every day in the car park, but that most of the customers were bypassing the shopping strip.

"It's just jam packed, no-one can park anywhere so they drive off," Mr Khala said.

He said the council's decision had "shocked" petitioners but said they would continue to lobby the council to improve the car parking.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



COUNCIL WORKERS THREATEN STRIKE ACTION

Brimbank Star – 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/sunshne-ardeer-albion/319/story/142919.html>

More than 500 Brimbank City Council workers could walk off the job if the council does not stop contracting out services.

A petition with more than 440 signatures was lodged with council last week objecting to them contracting out maintenance work at the Keilor Golf Course.

Australian Services Union organiser Russell McGregor said workers were worried the move could set a precedent for all jobs offered by council staff.

“It’s a flow-on affect,” Mr McGregor told Star.

“It’ll affect the mechanics, because they don’t have to service the machines, it’ll affect administration, because there’s no admin to do down there.

“People just want to have some job security.”

At a council meeting last week CEO Nick Foa said the council had not made any decision about contracting out maintenance at the golf course.

“Should council make that decision... those council staff will be guaranteed jobs,” Mr Foa said.

General Manager of Governance and Community Relations Helen Morrissey said the management of the golf course is currently contracted out and council has decided to “test the market” for the management and maintenance components as a package.

“On this basis council had advised staff that we will test the market place for maintenance and management services and compare against Council provided services.” Ms Morrissey said.

She said the “assertion” that the contracting was done to cut jobs “is wrong”.

“Our commitment is to provide best value to the community; this requires us to conduct service delivery reviews,” Ms Morrissey said.

“On some occasions this may mean a change in the way the service is delivered, such as the case in the provision of Youth Services which up to last year was provided by a contractor and is now provided directly by Council staff.”

She said council had increased staff numbers from 630 full-time workers to 740 over the past four years.

But Mr McGregor said council could only redeploy so many staff into one service before they were overstaffed and would have to cut jobs.

“We have to keep up the fight,” he said.

“It’s not hard for this CEO to guarantee you job security.

“We will defeat this CEO, we will defeat.”

The union was expected to meet with Mr Foa today.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



\$1.5M BIKE TRACK BID

Brimbank Star – 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/stalbans-deer-park-caroline-springs/319/story/142939.html>

Brimbank City Council will put in a bid to fund a \$1.5 million walking-cycling trail from Brimbank Park to the Organ Pipes National Park.

The council's infrastructure and environment general manager Paul Younis said the council had had the vision for "quite a while" with a view to creating a link along the Maribyrnong River.

The current proposal, which will go before the Federal Government's Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF), will use the existing trail along Taylors Creek and, as Mr Younis noted, "Significant land acquisition" would be required to build the trail along the Maribyrnong.

Administrator Meredith Sussex said walking-cycling trails were missing from the West, but were the "bread and butter" of the eastern suburbs.

Ms Sussex said many trails existed in the East as a result of State Government funding, but "for whatever reason" local government had to find funding to create similar infrastructure in the West.

"We really need to up the advocacy for this," she said.

The council has already set aside \$400,000 in this year's capital works budget to complete a section of the trail on Green Gully Rd.

MORE HOONS HERE THAN ANYWHERE

Brimbank Leader – 25th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/more-hoons-here-than-anywhere/>

Brimbank is the state's hoon capital, topping the list of vehicle impoundments since tough new laws were introduced in July.

There were 86 impounds between July 1 and September 30 in the Brimbank Police Servicing Area, almost double the number of neighbouring Hume with 47, and Casey, with 44. A total 1038 vehicles were impounded across the state during the three-month period.

Of those, 974 were driven by males.

The top offence for impoundments was driving while disqualified or suspended (310 impoundments), followed by excessive speed of more than 45km/h (240 impounds) and improper use of a motor vehicle (239 impounds).

Under the new laws, police have had the power to immediately impound hoon vehicles for 30 days.

Head of road policing Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe said the results should send a strong message to would-be dangerous drivers.

"More than 1000 motorists have already felt the impact of tough new impoundment laws, losing their vehicle for a minimum 30 days," he said.

"This should serve as a warning that police are 100 per cent committed to getting hoon and dangerous drivers off the road."

Mr Walshe said speed remained a strong focus for police.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"All up, 294 vehicles have been impounded for excessive speed," he said. "This is outrageous behaviour on the state's roads and places not only these motorists at risk, but other innocent road users."

Brimbank highway patrol Sgt Rod Stein said hoon behaviour was common in industrial areas after hours.

Since hoon laws began five years ago in 2006, a total 772 vehicles in Brimbank have been impounded, trailing Hume with 875.

BRIMBANK BOOMS

Brimbank Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/stalbans-deer-park-caroline-springs/319/story/142936.html>

Property is booming in Brimbank as median house prices and demand for investment properties rise.

Deer Park has recorded the strongest annual growth in Melbourne; with the median house price of \$385,000 – a 10 per cent leap on last year's prices according to the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV).

REIV data also shows Deer Park recorded an 11 per cent growth from the June quarter – the second-strongest performing suburbs behind Balwyn for the September quarter.

REIV CEO Enzo Raimondo said the suburb was bucking the trend, with the average median house price across Melbourne dropping from \$567,000 to \$551,000 since June.

He said the surge in population is bolstering demand in more affordable suburbs like Deer Park.

"Across Melbourne this means that the outer suburbs have recorded an overall better result than the inner ones have," Mr Raimondo said.

"The list of suburbs recording positive growth over the quarter and on an annual basis is dominated by those priced at or below the median."

The Australian Property Investor researcher John Lindeman also singled out Brimbank suburbs as on the rise, naming Braybrook, Albion, Sunshine and St Albans in his "107 hotspots" where rents are expected to increase.

He named Braybrook and Albion as "perpetual renter localities" where "vacancy rates were low and defaults are rare".

HEAPS OF FREE FUN MAKES FOR A FANTASTIC FUNTASIA

Brimbank Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/heaps-of-free-fun-makes-for-a-fantastic-funtasia/>

Thousands of Brimbank kids enjoyed a day chock-full of fun at this year's FUNtasia Children's Festival at the weekend.

The free festival, held at The Lakes Reserve, Taylors Lakes, on Sunday, featured everything from dress-ups to rides, cooking lessons to karaoke.

The headline act, the team from television show Saturday Disney, proved a hit, while children also enjoyed dancing along to music group The Jitterbugs.

And the little ones loved the Teddy Bears Picnic and listening to magical fairytales at the Brimbank Leader Storytelling Pavilion.

Brimbank Council's general manager community wellbeing Kelly Grigsby said it was a pleasure to see grandparents, parents and children all enjoying the festive atmosphere.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



TROLLEYS TRUMP CARS AT SHOPS

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/trolleys-trump-cars-at-shops/2333880.aspx>

St Albans traders say a lack of car parks near the Conrad Street shopping strip is causing traffic chaos and are disappointed Brimbank Council has turned down their request for more spaces.

In August, council received a petition listing the signatures of 723 Conrad Street shop owners and customers.

But last week council's general manager of infrastructure and environment, Paul Younis, said an investigation had found there was sufficient parking for shoppers.

Traders have long held concerns about insufficient parking in the area.

They say spaces are continually being occupied, forcing many customers to park in surrounding streets.

The shopping strip is on the southern side of Conrad Street.

Its businesses include a supermarket, butcher's and fruit market.

There are 37 car parking spaces along Conrad and Walter streets.

The owner of Brimbank Butchers and Seafood, Claude Beradone, said many customers were forced to wait in their cars on the street for a long time to get a parking spot.

"I've only been here four months and it is getting worse all the time," he said.

"The council should come to the strip on Friday and Saturday when it's absolutely crazy along the street."

Mr Younis said the council would investigate parking conditions listed on a 2006 planning permit for the redevelopment of the supermarket.

Last week's meeting heard that site investigations had revealed six parking spaces at the rear of the supermarket had not been implemented in accordance with the approved development plan.

PAST 40, AND DOING IT TOUGH

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/past-40-and-doing-it-tough/2333889.aspx>

Single-parent divorcees in Brimbank risk homelessness as they grow older, according to the president of Keilor's Parents Without Partners.

Karen McGregor, who runs the group out of her home in Kealba, says many people over 40 who get divorced find it hard to get a job and struggle to pay for food and utilities bills.

"After they get separated there are many issues with assets, and women can find it hard to get back into work if their husband used to be the main breadwinner," she said.

"These women find it hard to buy a home because they don't have many savings and not many people are willing to rent out homes to single mothers with kids."

New research from the Salvation Army shows women over 40 who return to renting might never get back into the housing market.

The author of the study, Swinburne University's Dr Andrea Sharam, surveyed 111 Victorian women over the age of 40 who did not expect to own their own homes before retirement.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



The research found two-thirds of the women expected to have \$100,000 or less in superannuation at retirement.

More than half were in debt and 77 per cent were renting.

Finance counsellor at Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services in St Albans, Melissa McAlister, said she had noticed a rise in the number of single mothers using the service because they were struggling to keep up with rising living costs.

Ms McGregor said Good Shepherd had provided emergency accommodation for women for up to 12 weeks because they had been doing it tough.

"When you get divorced you lose most of your friends and support networks; a lot of people don't want to know you anymore. Once you've reached your 40s and got kids and been divorced it's hard to do anything."

Dr Sharam's study called on councils and welfare organisations to invest in schemes where Crown or private land would be loaned for low-income housing developments.

She envisaged a minimum purchase price of \$150,000 but acknowledged many divorcees could not afford to buy a home in today's market.

STATE CAR THEFT CAPITAL

Brimbank Leader – 25th October 2011

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/state-car-theft-capital/>

Brimbank is the state's No.1 spot to have your car stolen, with an average of 17 taken each week.

National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council figures released last week show a staggering 908 cars were stolen across the city in 2011, up from 725 stolen the previous financial year.

Of those, 645 were short-term thefts, where thieves use cars for opportunistic reasons, while 263 were profit-motivated.

The suburbs in which motorists are most likely to be targeted are St Albans, with 242 thefts, followed by Sunshine (145) and Deer Park (135).

The Toyota Camry was the most common vehicle stolen, with 76 reported missing.

Brimbank was among four municipalities to buck the state trend, as Victoria reported an overall decrease in car thefts in most municipalities. Vehicle theft reduction council executive director Ray Carroll said the increase was a concern. Most of the cars stolen in the northwest were more than 10 years old and with no or poor security features.

"While we can't be completely sure about the reasons for the increase in the Brimbank area, the increase of 183 thefts is a concern in the face of total car thefts across Victoria declining," he said. "Brimbank has a number of suburbs that are likely to have larger proportions of older non-immobilised cars, which can be seen in the theft numbers for those suburbs.

"The vast majority of people who have their car stolen and trashed do suffer financially and emotionally from the experience."

Details on immobilisers are at carsafe.com.au

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



BRIMBANK STAFF JOB SECURITY UNDER A CLOUD

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/brimbank-staff-job-security-under-a-cloud/2333892.aspx>

The Australian Services Union has stepped up its campaign against the 'contracting out' of maintenance work by Brimbank Council, lodging a letter and petition with almost 500 signatures at last week's council meeting.

The ASU argues that outsourcing of maintenance work at the Keilor golf course would be the first move towards contracting out other areas, threatening the long-term job security of hundreds of workers.

Organiser Russell McGregor said a commitment from council chief executive Nick Foa that no in-house services would be outsourced was the only way workers would feel they had job security.

"To date, the CEO has not given a commitment to the long-term job security of our members. Therefore, every job is realistically under threat," he said.

Mr Foa told the council meeting no decision had been made in relation to Keilor golf course.

"Should council as a result of looking at different management options for that course make a decision that results in the maintenance work currently being carried out by council employees [being] contracted out, those staff have been guaranteed jobs with council."

General manager of governance and community relations, Helen Morrissey, said it was about improving services to the community, and any assertion of it being undertaken to cut jobs was "wrong".

The union met with administrators on Friday to discuss their concerns and will meet with Mr Foa on Thursday.

BRIMBANK TO RAMP UP ALCOHOL, DRUGS FIGHT

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/brimbank-to-ramp-up-alcohol-drugs-fight/2333874.aspx>

An increase in investment is needed to tackle alcohol and drug use issues plaguing the north-west, according to Brimbank Council.

The council hopes to meet Health Minister Mary Woolridge to push for extra funding and discuss its submission to the 'Whole of Government Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy'.

General Manager of community well-being Kelly Grigsby said the strategy aimed to cut rates of alcohol and drug abuse, reduce harm and increase access to treatment.

"Council's response has focused on the role local government plays in dealing with alcohol and other drug misuse and harms," she said.

"As the level of government closest to the community, local government is well placed to work with a range of different settings, groups, agencies and so on to create influence and try and mitigate the risks associated with drug and alcohol use in our communities."

An auditor-general's report tabled in State Parliament earlier this year found alcohol and drug abuse cost the community \$14billion a year.

Costs come through healthcare, crime, road accidents and injuries, decreased economic participation and lost productivity.

One in 10 Victorians drink at risky levels at least weekly, and alcohol consumption is a major contributor to disease, injury and other social harms.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



The report found the \$135.7million spent on drug and alcohol services in 2010-11 failed to meet demand.

Minority groups, in particular, were found to be slipping through the gaps.

The new strategy will focus on the 'three pillars' outlined in the 2010-15 drug strategy: reducing demand, supply and harm.

The council is seeking better training and tools for assessing liquor licence applications and better data on the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse.

It wants to see higher taxes used as a way to cut down on the levels of under-age drinking.

It also pointed to findings that full-strength beer is the largest contributor to high-risk alcohol consumption.

The government has set up an independent advisory group to inform the development of the strategy and provide expert advice on alcohol and other drugs issues.

The expert advisory group includes health, education, justice, business, local government and community representatives.

WATER RUNS CLEAN AGAIN

Brimbank Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/water-runs-clean-again/2333888.aspx>

City West Water says some residents may have experienced dirty water during works to upgrade local water infrastructure on October 19.

Managing director Anne Barker said the upgrade was critical.

City West Water plans to install a valve on an existing water main that supplies water to about 22,000 properties.

Ms Barker said complaints about brown water had been received and were dealt with within four hours.

VCAL FUNDING CUTS SLAMMED

Brimbank Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/vcal-funding-cuts-slammed/2333887.aspx>

The principal of Catholic Regional College in Sydenham fears the state government's decision to slash \$48 million from vocational education for year 11 and 12 students will severely affect vulnerable young people in Brimbank and Melton.

Starting next year, the government will cut \$12 million of annual co-ordination funding over four years to the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning, which is designed to keep young people in school by combining industry experience with their education.

VCAL has been offered in Victoria since 2003.

Principals from across the north-west say they might have to reduce the number of VCAL places they can offer students.

CRC Sydenham has 120 students enrolled in VCAL programs and will lose up to \$100,000 due to the funding cuts.

Principal Brendan Watson said the cuts would dramatically affect students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"There are more VCAL students in areas like ours than in the rest of the state and the funding cuts could increase the number of students not completing high school."

Mr Watson said co-ordination funding was vital because course co-ordinators helped students with work placements.

But government spokesman James Martin said the changes to VCAL funding related only to a special payment that was made to establish the program when it was introduced eight years ago.

He said it would have no impact on actual funding for students.

"Funding for students to take part in the program has increased to accommodate additional numbers and this will continue to be the case as student numbers grow.

"The Coalition is committed to VCAL as an option, not just for students at risk of disengagement, but for all students."

Keilor Labor MP Natalie Hutchins and Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews, who visited the college last Thursday to see the school's VCAL program in action, called on the government to reinstate co-ordination funding.

"The funding being cut is used to pay for VCAL co-ordinators who help to push the students harder and give them one-on-one attention they might not get in VCE."

Former CRC Sydenham student Brydie Harper said if she hadn't completed VCAL she would never have finished high school.

She completed a community services program last year which involved her attending the Sunshine Special Development School to work with children with autism.

The 18-year-old Taylors Lakes resident is now enrolled in a bachelor of applied science course at RMIT.

"VCE wasn't right for me, but VCAL gave me the opportunity to stay in school," she said.

Principals from VCAL schools across the state, including many from the north-west, last week took out an advertisement in metro newspapers protesting against the cuts.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



HOBSONS BAY

GETTING A FREE PUNT ON THE YARRA

Hobsons Bay Leader – 26th October 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/getting-a-free-punt-on-the-yarra/>

Cyclists and pedestrians on their way to and from work can now avoid Melbourne's busy bridges and roads by taking a free trip across the Yarra River to the city.

The West Gate Punt commuter ferry between Spotswood and Port Melbourne began its seven-day-week service on Monday, October 17, several months earlier than anticipated.

In this year's State Budget, the punt was allocated \$1.4 million over the next four years to run a seven-day service, although this was not expected to start until mid-2012.

The punt now runs every 20 minutes from 6.30 to 9am and 4 to 7pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

The punt will operate for free until November 4 to encourage people to try it out before prices return to \$2 a weekday crossing. Weekend fares will cost \$5 one way or \$7 for a return ticket.

Western Metropolitan Greens MP Colleen Hartland said years of community campaigning had "paid off" with the start of the seven-day commuter service.

"The community in the west has been campaigning for years to have the Government fund the punt as a public transport and cycling link," Ms Hartland said.

Western Metropolitan Liberal MP Andrew Elsbury, who travelled on the punt last week, said the ferry was an institution among bike riders and would now have a new role providing an alternative transport option for Melbourne's west.

BULLYING MOVE

Hobsons Bay Star – 26th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/319/story/143037.html>

Hobsons Bay City Council will support a public awareness campaign to stamp out bullying – for not just children and teens, but adults as well.

The campaign will include a web page on the council's website dedicated to combating bullying, following consultation with community members with expertise in issues around bullying.

Councillor Peter Hemphill, who raised the campaign with the council, said there has been quite a bit of interest since it was initially raised.

Cr Hemphill noted Brodie's law as one of the reasons he thought Hobsons Bay should adopt their own campaign.

"We already provide a number of services but there are some gaps," he said.

"It's not only about kids but it's about adults as well being at the receiving end – particularly that's what Brodie's law was about."

The Victorian law which could see workplace and cyber-bullies face up to 10 years in jail was named after 19-year-old Brodie Panlock who took her own life in 2006 after being bullied as a waitress.

Cr Luba Grigorovitch said she was very supportive of the motion.

Cr Grigorovitch cited the tragic suicide of an Altona Meadows teenager in 2009.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"Each year for the anniversary of his death, it's always marked and it's always quite a huge deal and although it is a very unfortunate reminder – it is a reminder that bullying does exist."

CROWD TURNS OUT FOR AUTISM NIGHT

Hobson Bay Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/319/story/143039.html>

A community information session on autism and Asperger's syndrome was held in Hobsons Bay last week.

Hosted by Member for Williamstown, Wade Noonan and the Williamstown Rotary Club, the information evening saw more than 300 people turn out to hear Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) expert, Clinical Psychologist Dr Richard Eisenmajer speak.

Dr Eisenmajer, who has published a number of articles and produced a DVD about autism and Asperger's syndrome, now works from the ASD Clinic in Kew East with a group of independent psychologists. Mr Noonan said they were overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up.

"When we considered putting on the night we thought we might draw a crowd of 100 maybe 150 at most, but conservatively there was about 315 there... perhaps as many as 350," he said.

Members of the community from all walks of life attended the evening, including parents, teachers, principals and other professionals. Mr Noonan said the people who attended all had a genuine interest in understanding more about ASD. During last year's election campaign the opposition promised to provide a P-12 autism school in the western suburbs. This Thursday a protest is being held on the steps of Parliament House to call on the State Government to commit to its promise.

WARM GREETING FOR BISHOP

Hobson Bay Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/319/story/143043.html>

As part of a four-week tour in Australia, Bishop Mario Grech of Gozo, Malta spent a day with residents of Hobsons Bay last week.

Bishop Grech celebrated Mass at the Maltese Association of Hobsons Bay and was greeted by a full house of parishioners eager to meet the Bishop from their homeland.

The President of the Maltese Association of Hobsons Bay told the crowd that it was his dream to welcome a Bishop from his old country to his group one day.

The arrival of the Bishop also marked the 50 year anniversary of the association.

"This is the faith we inherited and share with others," he said.

Bishop Grech was welcomed to Hobsons Bay by the Mayor Michael Raffoul, Member for Williamstown Wade Noonan, Western Metropolitan Region MP Bernie Finn, the Maltese Consulate and Leader of the Opposition Daniel Andrews.

Mr Noonan, who donned a red and white tie especially for the occasion, said the Maltese people had retained their culture very strongly and very proudly.

Cr Raffoul noted the 38 different nationalities that make up the municipality.

And Mr Finn told the crowd Australia would be a lot poorer without the Maltese community.

Speaking to Star, Bishop Grech said it was his first visit to Australia and he was overwhelmed by the reception he had received.

"I have no family here but my spiritual family is here," he said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"I am lost for words – I need time to let things sink in."

REWARD FOR WORK

Hobsons Bay Star – 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/williamstown-altona-laverton/319/story/143041.html>

Parents often say looking after children is a thankless job but one Hobsons Bay mum was awarded a Certificate of Merit last week to acknowledge her contribution to families of children with disabilities.

Annette Vrbanac is the mother of a special needs child.

She recognised the need for social support in the community and with a friend more than 10 years ago started a friendship group for parents with children with disabilities.

She quickly took over the group when her co-founder moved away and for 10 years has been providing moral support to parents in not just Hobsons Bay but the West.

The single mother of three said she receives a lot of support from her daughter Emily, her eldest son and her partner.

Bianca, 12, who is autistic and has an intellectual disability, can be a lot of work for the family but Annette said they're all blessed to have her in their lives.

"I can't imagine her not existing," she said

The group has about eight members today but Annette said the numbers are always changing.

"The group isn't just that two hour a month meeting – I have personal relationships with everyone outside the meetings," she said.

"It's not a group that only talks about disabilities either – we have craft days, guest speakers and we learn from each other."

Hobsons Bay City Council awarded Annette with the certificate last week.

Deputy Mayor Tony Briffa said he was very much in awe of Annette.

"She makes so much time for the other members," he said.

Annette said she was gobsmacked when she found out she would be receiving an award.

She said it was nice to be appreciated by the council and the award legitimised their group.

"I'll run that support group until the day I die," she said.

"I just love it."

CODE FOR CHANGE IN BROOKLYN

Hobsons Bay Leader – 25th October 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/have-your-say-code-for-change-in-brooklyn/>

Brooklyn residents fed up with living on the border of Hobsons Bay want to have their postcode changed.

The residential section of Brooklyn is officially part of Hobsons Bay, but borders Maribyrnong and Brimbank and has a 3012 postcode which it shares with Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham and West Footscray.

Residents want to have their postcode changed back to Altona North's 3025 code, which they had until 2002.

Brooklyn Residents Action Group secretary Bert Boere said the 3012 postcode had serious consequences for people living in Brooklyn.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"If you ... have a look at insurance costs under 3012, they're substantially higher than 3025 because it's under Maribyrnong Council and there's more thefts in that area," Mr Boere said.

"If you get something delivered to the post office or need to pick a parcel up, it goes to Kingsville and to get there via public transport for someone without a vehicle, it's not easy."

Hobsons Bay Mayor and Altona North Ward councillor Michael Raffoul said he fully supported the change to a 3025 postcode.

"Now (Brooklyn) belongs to Hobsons Bay, it should be given back the Hobsons Bay postcode," Cr Raffoul said.

He said former Hobsons Bay chief executive Ken McNamara had written to Australia Post in 2002 opposing the decision to change Brooklyn's postcode to 3012, but had never received a response.

He said he would raise the issue at council when residents tendered the petition they were currently circulating.

Australia Post spokeswoman Melanie Ward said postcodes were used solely to help Australia Post deliver mail and the previous change to 3012 would have been to improve sorting and mail delivery.

CALLS FOR RETURN OF GELLIBRAND PILE LIGHT

Hobsons Bay Leader— 25th October 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/have-your-say-calls-for-return-of-gellibrand-pile-light/>

A Hobsons Bay councillor has likened the National Trust's refusal to return the Gellibrand Pile Light to Britain's refusal to hand over the ancient Elgin Marbles to Greece.

Williamstown Ward councillor Angela Altair reignited a 36-year fight to have the historic warning light for ships returned to its "rightful home" in Williamstown at last week's council meeting.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has plans to install it in a new tourist precinct on the Yarra River, but the council has demanded that it be returned to Hobsons Bay and installed at Seaworks.

"The council has been on a mission to get this pile light ... returned to its rightful home in Williamstown for many years," Cr Altair said.

"The Williamstown Gellibrand Pile Light is the Elgin Marbles of Hobsons Bay.

"It's really up to the National Trust to see sense and give us back our light."

A National Trust spokeswoman said the pile light would be returned to the Polly Woodside visitor centre, which was where it had been on display for 33 years after being donated by the Victorian Public Works Department in 1978.

"With the redevelopment of the South Wharf precinct ... this location is set to be a major tourist destination," the spokeswoman said. The pile light, which was manufactured in Williamstown, acted as a warning light for ships and marked the reef off Point Gellibrand.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



It commenced operation in 1906 and served its purpose for 70 years until it was hit by a ship in 1976 and damaged beyond repair.

HOBSONS BAY: WE'LL TAKE SECOND-HAND SAND

Hobsons Bay Leader – 25th October 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/hobsons-bay-well-take-second-hand-sand/>

Hobsons Bay is eager to get its hands on 13,500 tonnes of second-hand sand rejected by residents from Bayside in Melbourne's south.

The council and Altona residents are calling for the unwanted sand - which was dumped at Black Rock's Half Moon Bay by the Department of Sustainability and Environment - to be redirected to Altona beach.

The sand was last week removed from Half Moon Bay by the department after Black Rock locals said the beach did not need the "poor quality dirt".

At last Tuesday's Hobsons Bay council meeting, Altona Ward councillor Tony Briffa said the municipality should try to claim the sand for the western end of Altona beach between Romawi and Maidstone streets.

Chief executive Bill Jaboor said he would lodge a request with the department for the extension of the beach renourishment program.

Long-term resident Bruce Ewen said it was a great opportunity for Altona to get the sand it needed for the beach.

"I think it would be a great opportunity for us to do something we, the residents of Altona, have wanted for a long time," Mr Ewen said. "It's certainly what we need."

He said the colour and quality of the sand did not matter.

"If it was sufficient to finish the project, that would be fantastic," Mr Ewen said. "If it means we have to put up with something that looks like a Neapolitan ice-cream for a while, that's not the worst thing."

Cr Briffa told the Leader the sand at the western end of Altona beach was "almost non-existent".

"Given the beach upgrade at Half Moon Bay has now been officially scrapped by Environment Minister Ryan Smith because the community decided it was not needed, it's a good opportunity for Altona to gain additional resources for our popular beach," Cr Briffa said.

"Issues with the sand colour can be considered once the minister considers our request, but the simple fact is this sand would be better than not having any sand."

Mr Smith's spokeswoman Lauren Bradley did not say whether Altona could have the sand, but that the beach would be "considered for the four-year beach renourishment program".

But environment department spokeswoman Brigid Ennis said the sand had already been earmarked for another beach.

TOP BUSINESSES NAMED BY HOBSONS BAY COUNCIL

Hobsons Bay Leader – 24th September 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/top-businesses-named-by-hobsons-bay-council/>

South Kingsville business Able Industries Engineering has been named Hobson Bay Council's Business of the Year for 2011.

The winners in 15 categories were announced at a gala dinner at Williamstown Town Hall on Friday night.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Able Industries Engineering started as a sheet metal fabrication business in 1975 and has evolved into a "complete engineering solution".

Hobsons Bay Mayor Michael Raffoul said Able Industries Engineering was a family owned and operated business.

"The judges were highly impressed with the business philosophy and the way the business has been able to grow in the past 12 months, tapping into niche markets and investing in new technologies," Cr Raffoul said.

Other winners in the 2011 Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards were:

- Environment and Sustainability: Newport Organic Collective Inc
- Good Access/Good Business: Mosaic Restaurant
- Home Based: Trading Places Foodservice Brokerage
- Hospitality: Mosaic Restaurant
- New/ Start Up Business: Elle & Stuart
- Not for Profit/ Community: The Substation
- Manufacturing and Industry: Able Industries Engineering
- Professional Services: Hampton Sustainability
- Retail: Court Jester Fancy Dress Hire
- Tourism: Lantern Ghost Tours & Captains Retreat
- Mayoral Encouragement Award: Ragusa Restaurant
- Mayoral Innovation Award: Aqueous Solutions Pty Ltd
- Mayoral Corporate Citizenship Award: PAZ Group.

HEAT'S ON IN KITCHEN BATTLE

Hobsons Bay Leader – 24th September 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/heats-on-in-kitchen-battle/>

Master chefs from Hobsons Bay's three community kitchens battled it out in a cook-off last week.

It was hot in kitchen as representatives from Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre, the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre and the Williamstown Church of Christ showed off their skills at Altona Green Primary School last Thursday.

Hobsons Bay Mayor Michael Raffoul said the event showcased the municipality's community kitchens, which offered a way for local people to get together to cook, socialise and learn from each other.

"Participants learn how to budget, shop, prepare food, plan meals, get improved access to fresh fruit and vegetables and, of course, eat," Cr Raffoul said.

"Food is a great way to engage with people who may be isolated and is less confronting than attending a formal cooking class."

Food for the cook-off was provided by South Kingsville's Gateway Social Support Options' Community Foodlink program.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



FROM LITTLE SEEDS...

Hobsons Bay Leader – 23rd October 2011

<http://hobsons-bay-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/from-little-seeds/>

A humble peach from her friend's tree sparked Karen Gell's interest in sustainable gardening.

Now, the Williamstown woman grows all her own fruit and vegetables.

Ms Gell is one of more than 50 Hobsons Bay residents taking part in the Hobsons Bay Council-supported My Smart Garden program.

My Smart Garden aims to help local residents reduce household greenhouse gas emissions, improve biodiversity and use water wisely through workshops, information and guidance to create their own smart garden.

"I had a peach from a tree that had been sun-ripened and it was so totally different to anything I'd eaten from the supermarket, it tasted so much better," Ms Gell said.

She said she had found the information to start her own garden through the program.

"It's incredibly informative and the people are very passionate and very knowledgeable," Ms Gell said.

Ms Gell created a garden bed and planted Brussels sprouts, onion, garlic, parsley, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes and beans.

"It's really good being able to go out to your garden and just grab something you've grown," she said.

She has also learnt about compost, attracting wild birds, organic pest control and now plans to investigate the possibility of having chooks.

Hobsons Bay Council will host a My Smart Garden Beginners Guide to Chickens on Saturday from 10am to noon at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, 5 Sargood St, Altona.

MARIBRYNONG

FOOTSCRAY CITY: STEINER PROGRAM, SCHOOL COUNCIL AXED

Maribyrnong Weekly – 27th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/footscray-city-steiner-program-school-council-axed/2337878.aspx>

Parents at Footscray City Primary have been left reeling after the Education Department yesterday moved to sack the school council and scrap the alternative Steiner curriculum without consultation.

Almost half the 280 students at Footscray City Primary are in the Steiner stream, which emphasises learning by play rather than formal classes in the early years of school.

But parents were shocked to receive a letter when they picked up their children from school yesterday informing them the Steiner stream would cease at the end of the year.

School council president Tim Sharkey, who learnt of the intervention from his son, said he would seek legal advice about the lack of consultation.

"I'm frustrated, shocked and disappointed. I had thought that the Education Act talks about parental involvement in the education of children."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Acting deputy secretary John Allman said the department was also proposing the school council be removed to give the school a "fresh start".

New principal Steve Warner would start immediately.

Mr Allman said the department had been concerned about the operation of Footscray City Primary and the outcomes of students for seven to eight years.

"I don't want to over dramatise it, but it's an intervention that's out of the ordinary," he said. "The reality is we believe students at the school can get a much better deal than what they are getting."

But parents with children in both the mainstream and Steiner streams at Footscray City Primary told *The Age* they were happy with the education their children received.

"I've been absolutely tickled pink with the program and my children's learning," said Mr Sharkey, who has two children in the Steiner stream.

He said the western metropolitan region of the Education Department was bullying the school by insisting on a narrow homogenised way of teaching that was at odds with the Steiner curriculum.

Amelia Bartak, who has three children in the mainstream program, said she cried when she learnt the Steiner program had been scrapped. "I'm just so shocked, I can't understand how they made this decision without consulting," she said.

"Most mainstream parents really value having the Steiner program right on our doorstep and our children playing in the playground and the exchange that takes place. Diversity within the public school system is something to be valued."

In the letter to parents, Education Department regional director Katherine Henderson said despite efforts over the past 10 years to build a harmonious

relationship between the two streams, the department now considered it no longer in the best interests of children to run a dual-stream curriculum.

Ms Bartak said the suggestion there was antagonism between the two was "utter rubbish". She said the decision was particularly galling given parents from both streams had worked together to hold a school fete last Saturday that raised thousands of dollars for projects such as vegetable gardens and woodfire pizza ovens.

Siobhan McInerny said her son Ruari did not cope in mainstream education and was much better suited to the Steiner method. "Once again the western suburbs miss out."

Mr Allman denied the decision was about Steiner education. He said programs were successfully run at schools including Collingwood College, Bentleigh East Primary and Briar Hill primary.

WEST GATE: RELIEF, AS CHANGES MADE TO BRIDGE OF PAIN

Maribyrnong Weekly— 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/west-gate-relief-as-changes-made-to-bridge-of-pain/2336720.aspx>

An investigation is under way into whether the installation of safety barriers on the West Gate Bridge has shifted suicide to other locations in Melbourne.

A coronial inquest into the death of Altona Meadows boy Allem Halkic last Friday heard there had been an 85per cent reduction in suicides from the bridge since his death on February 5, 2009.

Ali and Dina Halkic initiated the five-day inquest after losing their only son, aged 17.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Allem jumped from the bridge about 5am and was located alive by emergency services personnel about 5.18am. He was pronounced dead about 5.35am.

Paramedics and police told the coronial inquest of difficulties accessing a secure area where Allem fell and of negotiating difficult terrain in the dark to get to him.

VicRoads' regional director, Nial Finnigan, said that along with the "no-climb" barriers installed at the bridge, new cameras would automatically detect pedestrians and trigger an alert, causing an "instantaneous" response from trained personnel.

Mr Finnigan said there would also be a permanent security office under the bridge 24/7 with personnel able, with remote control, to open gates leading to a secured area. A geographical reference from the bridge would be matched with a position on the ground so emergency personnel would know where to locate a person.

The area would also be automatically floodlit.

In the Coroners Court on Friday, Mr Halkic shook Mr Finnigan's hand and thanked him for answering his questions. Mr Halkic told the court that at last he knew what had transpired on the night of Allem's death, but that preventive measures should have been introduced before his son and hundreds before him had died.

"If we're heading into the 100s [of suicides from the bridge] and we're not responding ... as a community we need to stand up and ask, 'Why?' And I think today is that 'why'. The question is why, why so many?"

He told the court it was good that suicide was no longer a taboo subject. Mr Halkic said people were more aware of the pain and devastation for those left behind. In court, his statement brought many to tears as he recalled viewing the body of his son. "I went back the second day. I spent time with him. I promised I wouldn't

move him or disturb him. The second day he was cleaned up a bit. I tried to look at him as much as I could.

"I uncovered his body. I could see my beautiful boy. He had my hands and Dina's feet."

Mr Halkic later told the Weekly it brought some peace knowing there had not been a fatality from the bridge this year.

People with problems should call Lifeline on 131114.

CORONER'S FACT-FINDING MISSION

THE Coroners Court and the Australian Institute of Suicide Research and Prevention are examining "jump-from-height" suicides in Victoria between 1990 and 2008, Coroner Audrey Jamieson revealed on Friday.

She said the research had not been released because empirical evidence showed media reporting of the method and location was associated with copycat suicides.

"However, for the purposes of this inquest I have requested the Coroners Prevention Unit provide me with up-to-date information on the frequency of jump-from-height suicides at the West Gate Bridge since Allem's death," she said.

"The Coroners Prevention Unit has advised me that there have been 10 suicides from the West Gate Bridge since Allem's death.

"Five of these occurred prior to the completion of the temporary barriers being erected in May 2009 and five have occurred during the construction of the permanent barriers. This represents a reduction of over 85per cent at this location."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011

BINKS FORD SITE COULD HOUSE THOUSANDS

Maribyrnong Leader— 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/binks-ford-site-could-house-thousands/2336669.aspx>

The old Binks Ford site next to Footscray railway station could be turned into a \$500million commercial and residential site with up to 13 buildings above the rail line.

State government development agency VicUrban is finalising a master plan for the two-hectare site, which would redevelop the old car yard into medium- and high-density residences, including a deck over the rail tracks.

VicUrban urban revitalisation manager Dominic Arcaro said it was a rare opportunity to have buildings over rail tracks with a mix of residential, commercial and community use while improving access to the station.

Almost half the development would comprise apartments.

Community feedback would be used to refine the plan before it is submitted for the approval of Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

Maribyrnong Council recently released a draft housing strategy that says the municipality will need an extra 15,800 homes by 2031. The municipality is divided into zones for "limited, incremental and substantial" residential development.

Cr John Cumming supported the Binks Ford site proposal but said extra traffic could be a concern and should be directed towards the Dynon Road-Whitehall Street intersection.

Melbourne University architecture building and planning research fellow Kate Shaw said planners needed to think about urban renewal uses beyond high-end residential, office and commercial uses and focus on accessibility and affordability.

"The primary object of renewal is to reduce residential pressure on the urban fringe, certainly, but all development cannot be residential; that makes for a dead city. VicUrban needs to think about all the constituents of a good city and come to terms with the fact that maximum economic return cannot be the sole objective."



SCREENING 'NOTHING TO FEAR'

Maribyrnong Weekly— 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/screening-nothing-to-fear/2336670.aspx>

Melbourne's inner west has one of the lowest breast cancer-screening participation rates in the state, and an open day has been held to try to reverse the trend.

North Western Breast Screen's Footscray site opened its doors and held a morning tea to help dispel fears and myths about breast screening.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"Breast Screen's target group is women in the 50-to-69 age bracket and unfortunately only 44 per cent of those women in the inner west are using the service," Greens MLC and Breast Screen supporter Colleen Hartland said.

Breast Screen community information officer Robin Curwen-Walker said the clinic was reaching out to the refugee and migrant community by setting up language-specific clinic days, organising interpreters and addressing specific cultural concerns by providing all-female staff.

"The more women who participate in the Breast Screen service, the greater the reduction in mortality from breast cancer in women in the target age group," Ms Hartland said.

"I take part in the Breast Screen program and I will be having my biennial screening mammogram. There's nothing to hide; it's a normal preventive healthcare measure and I encourage women in the west to come out and join me."

FOOTSCRAY CITY EDGE: GREEN HAVEN TO TRANSFORM CBD

Maribyrnong Weekly— 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/footscray-city-edge-green-haven-to-transform-cbd/2336664.aspx>

A vision to turn central Footscray into a "university town" with urban parks and a pedestrian and cycling-friendly business district has been released.

Maribyrnong Council's draft Footscray City Edge master plan proposes big changes to parking, transport and the appearance of the CBD as it evolves through population growth.

Population projections by demographer's .id show Footscray growing from just over 13,000 people to 28,000-plus in the next 20 years.

A new town park and community centre will replace the car park next to the library on Paisley Street and a town plaza at Byron Street, while an arts hub is proposed for Maddern Square. Large-scale tree planting will create green corridors along Geelong Road, the rail line and the Maribyrnong River edge.

New parking lots will be created beyond a "ring road" bounded by Irving, French and Donald streets. "We think the centre of Footscray has to have a pedestrian priority ... and we will try to locate car parking on the ring road away from the centre," the council's sustainable development manager, Nigel Higgins, said.

"We still want car parking in good locations with good accessibility to the centre, but when you are in the middle pedestrians have the highest priority."

Mr Higgins said increased student presence would add "vitality" to the city centre without detracting from its diverse character.

It's expected initial works will be included in next year's council budget.

Footscray Traders Association president Grant Miles said "greening" the CBD and creating more open spaces was a great idea as long as it wasn't at the cost of parking spaces.

He suggested the need for a parking area in central Footscray in the form of a multi-deck car park.

"We can achieve parking in central Footscray and open spaces and better access for pedestrians and bikes."

The plan relies heavily on action from the state government, particularly for a proposed extension of the tram route along Dynon Road to the city and routing truck traffic away from Moore Street.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Department of Transport spokeswoman Julie McNamara said there were no plans to extend the tram network in Maribyrnong. A metropolitan planning strategy, being developed over the next two years, would consider transport needs, she said.

A separate plan to redevelop the 15-hectare Joseph Road precinct for residential and commercial use will soon be released.

MARIBYRNONG'S RATEPAYERS 'CAN'T GET NO SATISFACTION'

Maribyrnong Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/maribyrnongs-ratepayers-cant-get-no-satisfaction/2336663.aspx>

Community satisfaction with Maribyrnong Council's performance and services has slipped to its lowest in seven years, according to the latest annual survey.

Metropolis Research surveys 800 people each year for its Governing Melbourne report. Respondents are asked to give a score out of 10 for a range of council services and asked to name issues affecting their lives.

The council's overall performance was ranked 6.22 out of 10, the second-lowest in the survey's eight-year history. Scores between 6 and 6.5 are considered "solid".

The decline in satisfaction is a recurring theme for councils across Melbourne.

Maribyrnong's score is higher than the average of 5.88 for councils in the west.

"It highlights the issues we need to work through," mayor Sarah Carter said.

Issues that were most concerning to residents were safety, crime and policing, traffic management and car parking. For the second consecutive year, satisfaction levels regarding the availability of parking and number of trucks on local streets declined significantly and Cr Carter said residents' concerns highlighted the pressures that were a by-product of a growing city.

There was a notable increase in satisfaction for street cleaning and maintenance and cleanliness. This year's council budget was framed as a plan to get "back to basics" with added funding for waste collection and keeping public places clean.

It committed \$168,000 for a "rapid response team" for urgent requests to pick up rubbish dumped in public areas and more than \$8million to upgrade parks and reserves and for road maintenance and cleaning.

Public toilets were on the nose, registering low satisfaction scores and the council conceded that some of the automatic toilets put in Footscray at a cost of more than \$200,000 each were in the "wrong location" and had become a "drawcard for unacceptable behaviour".

Traders have continually singled out the toilet in Leeds Street as a haven for drug users and antisocial behaviour.

"We can clean the toilets five times a day, but if people are going to use them for purposes other than what they're designed for there's always [going to be] low satisfaction," Cr Carter said.

NO DIGITAL DUFFERS, THANKS TO ANDREW

Maribyrnong Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-digital-duffers-thanks-to-andrew/2336666.aspx>

Helping students navigate the digital world to better their education while avoiding pitfalls such as cyber bullying has led to a teaching award nomination for Andrew Bryson.

The Braybrook-based Caroline Chisholm Catholic College physical education teacher (pictured) has been overseeing a program to give all the school's students a laptop computer.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Years 7, 9, 10 and 11 students will receive a computer this year as part of the program. "Students have embraced the use of their notebook computers," Mr Bryson said.

He said the personal computers helped students continue their work at home and at their own pace without falling behind the rest of the class. This was a great help for those from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

Mr Bryson has also been instrumental in helping students stay safe in the online world through the eSmart program. The program was created by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, which was set up to advocate for children's safety following the 1996 Port Arthur killings.

"It's about being proactive with cyber safety rather than reactive," Mr Bryson said.

"Part of our responsibility is to make students aware of their responsibilities as digital citizens and how to behave in an online world."

Mr Bryson is one of 62 Victorian teachers in the running for the National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) for inspirational teachers. The finalists will be narrowed down to 60 state and territory winners next month, and out of these, 10 teachers will receive national awards next year.

REGIONAL RAIL LINK: NO BARRIERS SO IT'S EARPLUGS FOR NOW

Maribyrnong Weekly – 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/regional-rail-link-no-barriers-so-its-earplugs-for-now/2336667.aspx>

To the boffins who crunch the numbers on passenger rail noise, it's technically only a small increase. But to residents living beside the new rail tracks it's simple: more trains means more noise.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy released a noise impact assessment report for the extra trains as part of the \$5billion Regional Rail Link project.

It has been a long and anxious wait for residents following a damning Environment Protection Authority report released early this year that concluded many people near the rail line would "... experience chronic noise-induced sleep disturbance".

Mr Guy ordered a further noise impact assessment that concluded the extra trains would "...only increase noise levels between Moonee Ponds Creek and Tottenham by 1-3 [decibels]" due to a small relative increase in overall train traffic.

However, the report notes that noise levels at Footscray, Middle and West Footscray, and Sunshine exceed acceptable levels under NSW and Queensland guidelines.

Fair Go for Footscray Rail Residents spokesman Nick Fahey said the conclusions were questionable.

"We're not certain of their methods of measuring. To conclude that up to a 20 per cent increase in trains would only add 1 to 2 per cent increase in noise sounds bizarre to anyone who lives beside a train line," Mr Fahey said.

Railway Place properties adjoin the rail line and cop the brunt of the noise. Resident Ben Howard said: "It's pretty straightforward: if you have more trains it produces more noise."

The report stated conventional noise barriers would reduce noise by up to 12 decibels and cost about \$49 million to reduce noise to current levels (before the new train services) or \$21million to reduce to night-time average levels.

Mr Guy said an environmental management plan for the project, submitted by the Regional Rail Link Authority, was with the state government for consideration.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



PLAN FOR FEWER TRUCKS HITS A DEAD END

Maribyrnong Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/plan-for-fewer-trucks-hits-a-dead-end/2336668.aspx>

A plan to take trucks off residential streets in Yarraville and Footscray appears doomed as planning on the \$380 million Truck Action Plan stalls.

The previous Labor government had budgeted \$40 million for the first stage of a project which included widening Shepherd Bridge and altering traffic flow on Whitehall and Moreland streets near Footscray Road.

The state government has put that work on hold and the Weekly understands planning has been all but abandoned. That is likely to infuriate community groups, Maribyrnong Council, political parties, unions and transport industry representatives who have banded together as the West Gate Ramps Coalition to push the project.

Williamstown MP Wade Noonan said he had been told by various sources that the unit within VicRoads responsible for planning the Truck Action Plan had been disbanded.

"Roads Minister Terry Mulder has no interest in this project," Mr Noonan said.

"The community seems to be waiting now for an official announcement that the Baillieu government will not support the Truck Action Plan," Mr Noonan said.

VicRoads 2010-11 annual report did mention the plan. The government is expected to lodge submissions with Infrastructure Australia next month for a share of federal funding for major projects.

Mr Mulder's office would not say whether the Truck Action Plan was being put forward for consideration.

"I suspect there will be a huge community backlash against the Baillieu government if they don't go ahead with the Truck Action Plan," Mr Noonan said.

"People know the plan will remove a million trucks a year off residential streets. My suspicion is that they will look to blame the federal government, but the community won't cop any blame-shifting on this issue."

VicRoads major projects director John Moylan said the VicRoads western projects office in Caroline Springs, which plans and procures the construction of key arterial road improvements in Melbourne's west, was responsible for the Truck Action Plan.

"A number of projects announced by the previous government, including the Truck Action Plan, are now under review."

MARIBYRNONG COUNCIL CONCERNED OVER LOSS OF PLANNING CONTROL

Maribyrnong Leader– 26th October 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/maribyrnong-council-concerned-over-loss-of-planning-control/>

Maribyrnong Council continues to pass unpopular planning permits in fear of VCAT overturning decisions without reference to community concerns.

But last week Mayor Sarah Carter said one applicant had set a date for a VCAT hearing prior to the council meeting "basically bypassing council". The applicant, who hopes to build four dwellings on a lot in Suffolk St, West Footscray, was preparing to take the matter further if the council outcome was negative.

But Cr Carter said she was satisfied that council staff had worked with the applicant to reduce the scale of the development to meet parking requirements and councillors approved the project.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Councillors also backed an application for a rooming house in Bayview St, Yarraville, previously run illegally.

Cr Martin Zakharov said it was likely the application, if rejected, would ultimately be approved by VCAT, without conditions the council set out.

These included providing eight bicycle spaces within the site.

Cr Carter said it was “a sorry state of affairs “to lose so much control and VCAT often approved planning applications “without the advantage of local knowledge”.

BIG PLANS TO STOP TRUCKS

Maribyrnong Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/319/story/143081.html>

Maribyrnong City Council has vowed to pull out all the stops to get trucks off residential streets once and for all.

The council will hike up its attempts to get the State Government moving on key transport projects like the Truck Action Plan after traffic counts jointly undertaken by the city and VicRoads have shown increased traffic volumes across the board.

On Somerville Rd, east of Williamstown Rd, truck traffic has surged by 30 per cent in the past year during curfew times, while on Moore St there has been a nine per cent increase in trucks roaring through during curfew periods.

In the busiest part of Francis St, east of Williamstown Rd, traffic numbers have risen by 10 per cent in the overall daily figures in the nine years since the traffic counts have been running – but truck traffic is down 15 per cent.

Over on Buckley St, truck traffic has dropped 32 per cent during curfew times.

The curfew applies to trucks exceeding 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass and operates along Francis St, Somerville Rd and Williamstown Rd between 8pm and 6am Monday to Saturday and 1pm Saturday to 6am Monday.

The curfew does not apply to trucks travelling to local destinations.

Councillor John Cumming said it was a great disappointment that the Truck Action Plan was not yet coming to fruition when the council was doing its bit by conducting truck counts and noise monitoring.

The council is still waiting on responses from the State Transport Minister, Health Minister and Environment and Climate Change Minister.

PRICE HIKE

Maribyrnong Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/319/story/143063.html>

Plastic furniture and gas heaters could be on their way out under new Maribyrnong City Council guidelines over street furniture.

The council has put out its draft street furniture and display guidelines to give direction to all traders, owners, and businesses about how, why and where private furniture can be located within retail centres across the municipality.

Under the guidelines, no plastic outdoor furniture and umbrellas will be allowed, nor will gas heaters.

The council also proposes a ban on fixed furniture – with screens needing to be detachable at any point in time for emergency, access and cleaning purposes.

Outdoor displays and furniture are recommended for streets with a minimum 2.1 metre footpath space so that they do not interfere with pedestrian access.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Traders will have to fork out \$145 for every table with four chairs, \$280 for goods displayed per shop front, and up to \$280 for a display board outside the store.

Traders will also have to pay \$5 a day to trade on the footpath. This fee will be waived for any not-for-profit charities, associations and organisations.

The council has put out a copy of the draft guidelines at all public libraries, on their website and at the One Stop Shop in Footscray.

Traders associations in the municipality will also be sent a copy.

Councillors generally supported the draft guidelines at last week's meeting, but councillor Catherine Cumming branded the proposed fees disproportionate to the permit process and said it could put traders off from applying for the relevant permits.

"We don't need \$145 per table and chair to process a permit," she said.

It was the first Mark Cafarella, who runs fruit and vegetable shop Pompello in Victoria St, Seddon, had heard of the plans.

Mr Cafarella has a fruit, vegetable and flower stand outside his store, plus one table and chairs, and said he would have to look at reducing the size of his stand if the proposed guidelines are passed.

"It's not brilliant. I'm not sure of the rationale," he told Star last week.

"It just seems expensive."

The draft guidelines will be revised after the consultation period and brought before the council at its first ordinary meeting in 2012.

FITTING TRIBUTE

Maribyrnong Star– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/footscray-yarraville/319/story/143065.html>

Maribyrnong College paid tribute to former teacher Joan Brogden for her contribution to the arts and the school last week by naming their college theatre after her. Ms Brogden was one of the original teachers at Maribyrnong High School in 1958 and taught at the school until 1972. She started up a drama club, where improvisation and short plays made up weekly events at the school and in 1967, through her instigation, drama was removed from the English syllabus and taught as a separate subject. The school marked the event by unveiling their art exhibition and premiering their annual school production, Fear: Tales of Terror and Intrigue, which includes student Armani Danger.

FEW KNOW MARIBYRNONG MAYOR

Maribyrnong Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/few-know-maribyrnong-mayor-fbready/>

Concerns surrounding crime and safety have doubled in the community over the past year, the latest resident survey shows.

Despite Maribyrnong Council installing surveillance cameras, safety, policing and crime made the top issue among the 800 residents surveyed in the council's 2011 Annual Community Survey, with one in three listing it in their top three concerns, an increase from 15.9 per cent to 33.2 per cent.

And in worrying signs for the level of the community's political engagement, more than three quarters of residents surveyed could not name the mayor.

Mayor Sarah Carter said she did not take it personally because she knew she had been actively involved in the community.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Cr Carter said many issues highlighted in the survey were from the strains of growth.

“Although some of these issues are outside the council’s control, we are taking action where we can,” she said.

“This includes installing CCTV in central Footscray and developing transport plans for future growth.”

Traffic management came in second as a concern, doubling in the past year to 28.6 per cent.

Concerns about parking were down from last year but the issue remained in the top three for residents with road maintenance a concern for 11 per cent of those surveyed.

According to the survey almost 50 per cent of residents think household costs had increased substantially in the past 12 months with 168 of the respondents highlighting the increased food costs as a problem.

Street cleaning and maintenance issues rose dramatically as a concern as did general cleanliness issues, up from 4.6 to 8.1 per cent.

Public toilets remained down the bottom of the list for community satisfaction, as in previous years.

Survey contractor Metropolis Research managing director Dale Hubner said satisfaction with public toilets was low across all municipalities.

B-DOUBLE WEAVE WORRY IN FOOTSCRAY

Maribyrnong Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/b-double-weave-worry-in-footscray-fbready/>

THE Greens are calling for changes to be made on major cycling paths before the life of another cyclist is claimed.

Western Metropolitan Greens state MP Colleen Hartland has identified Whitehall and Parker streets intersection, where a major truck and bicycle route cross paths, as the most dangerous in Maribyrnong for cyclists.

“During busy times, enormous B-double trucks back up for 400m and bicycles are forced to weave between them with poor visibility, often relying on signalling of others who can see oncoming traffic hidden from the cyclists’ view,” she said. The intersection needed a safe signalised crossing to ensure the safety of the growing number of cyclists.

Ms Hartland said it had been six months since she took her concerns to VicRoads - and was still waiting for a response.

She also highlighted the need for Shepherd Bridge to be widened to protect cyclists from the traffic, particularly trucks, using the bridge.

VicRoads Metropolitan North West regional director Nial Finegan said VicRoads was considering a range of options to improve safety and accessibility at the intersection of Whitehall and Parker streets, including a signalised pedestrian and cyclist crossing.

Maribyrnong Council infrastructure and engineering general manager Ian Butterworth said cyclists had to take their chances at the crossing, mixing with heavy truck and vehicle volumes.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



He said council backed the VicRoads idea for a signalised crossing and was also urging VicRoads to upgrade Shepherd Bridge to include separate dedicated 3m-wide bike lanes. These works were included in the Truck Action Plan that is under review by the Government. Council will exhibit a draft Maribyrnong Integrated Transport Strategy for feedback.

MELTON

MELTON MP JOINS DUPLICATION FIGHT

Melton Leader – 28th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/melton-mp-joins-duplication-fight/>

The campaign to duplicate the Melton Highway is heading for Spring St.

Melton state Labor MP Don Nardella has thrown his support behind the campaign and will raise the community's concerns in State Parliament.

The Melton Leader, along with a community action group, is calling for the notorious road to be duplicated.

Thirteen people have died and more than 260 people have been injured on the highway since 1987.

Melton police and Melton Council are also behind the push.

But VicRoads has not committed to duplication, instead earmarking other safety improvements.

"I support fully the need for the duplication and the urgent need to bring forward design works and funding," Mr Nardella said.

"As well as writing to VicRoads and Minister for Roads Terry Mulder in relation to these matters, I will also be raising this matter in Parliament.

"Now is the time for the Baillieu Government to stick their hands in their pockets and stop the terrible accidents that cause so much despair and sorrow on this road."

Last week, Mr Nardella met members of the Duplicate the Melton Hwy Now! Facebook group.

"I was happy to meet with representatives of the group yesterday to discuss ways in which we could jointly progress the urgent duplication of the Melton Highway," he said.

"The group have collected a number of signatures which I have agreed to present with a deputation from the group to Minister Mulder.

Narelle Bowden, a member of the group whose five-year-old nephew was killed in an accident on the highway in December 2010, said the campaign was gaining momentum.

"We definitely are causing a stir in the eyes of the politicians and those hierarchies that need to be targeted," she wrote. "We are now the fastest growing urban growth development area in the whole of Australia."

"This highway is one of the most common entry and exit points into our townships and can no longer facilitate the municipalities daily growing traffic volumes."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



WORK ON DIGGERS REST STATION POWERS ON

Melton Leader– 28th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/work-on-diggers-rest-station-powers-on/>

Works on the new look Diggers Rest train station are powering ahead.

As part of the Sunbury Electrification Project, the station is receiving a major overhaul, including footpaths, zebra crossings, additional lighting and 20 new disabled car spaces.

New platform screens will reflect the town's history.

The final design for a new community garden at the station will include consultation with residents and students from Diggers Rest Primary School.

Principal Paul Yeatman said the program would form part of the students' curriculum.

"Students will be able to show their families and friends how they have made a difference to their town," he said.

There will be an information forum tonight from 7pm at the Family Services Centre, Plumpton Rd.

MELTON RAIL STATION MISSES OUT ON UPGRADE

Melton Leader– 27th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/melton-rail-station-misses-out-on-upgrade/>

Melton state Labor MP Don Nardella has labelled the State Government "inadequate and weak" after it failed to fund an upgrade to Melton railway station.

Mr Nardella said it was "totally unacceptable and another kick in the head for Melton rail commuters" after Transport Minister Terry Mulder revealed there was no funding available for an upgrade.

The station has been criticised for its lack of safety features and inadequate car parking facilities.

"The minister's response is weak and shows the indifference shown by the Baillieu Government towards rail commuters in Melton and the west generally," Mr Nardella said.

"Labor had a committed plan to fund over \$800,000 for these important works and I expect the Libs to at least match this amount and ensure the works are undertaken immediately."

Melton Deputy Mayor Broden Borg, who sits on the Melton Railway Station Advisory Committee, said resources needed to be made available.

"It is my opinion that the State Government must act to improve the car park and security immediately," he said.

"It is unacceptable that our residents have to park on the current surface and spend the day worrying if they are going to come back to a car or not."

Mr Nardella encouraged residents to write and email the Transport Minister's office to show their displeasure.

Mr Mulder failed to return Leader's request for comment.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



EAGLED-EYE MELTON STUDENTS

Melton Leader – 26th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/eagled-eye-melton-students/>

It's not every day you get to come face-to-beak with a bird of prey.

Students from St Dominic's Primary School in Melton got up close and personal with their school's emblem when they met a wedge-tailed eagle last week.

The soaring eagle demonstration coincided with the school's launch of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support.

The program aims to establish a clear set of positive expectations and behaviours using four key words - safety, optimism, acceptance and respect, or SOAR.

Students spent the day rotating through activities including making a personal passport, sports and getting cosy with a wedge-tailed eagle.

The bird has become symbolic for the school with a carved red-gum statue sitting at the school's entrance.

It also features on the school's logo with the words courage, truth and compassion.

Principal Brett Collison said the program will help the students strive to be the best person they can.

"We are excited by the prospect of seeing these children aspire to reach great heights," he said.

"In our preliminary work we have already seen improvement in how our students are engaging in school life."

CONCERN AT URBAN DENSITY IN MELTON

Melton Leader – 26th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/concern-at-urban-density-in-melton/>

Meltonians are concerned increasing urban density and expansion will negatively affect the quantity and quality of the shire's public open spaces.

This was one of the key concerns expressed during the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's extensive Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation, requested by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change in 2008.

The investigation looked into public land in 29 municipalities, including Melton Shire.

The report found that most public land in Melton Shire was Crown land or owned by Western Water.

VicRoads is also a major public land owner.

Significant areas of public land in the shire include part of the Lerderberg State Park, Mount Cottrell Nature Conservation Reserve, Melton and Djerriwarrh reservoirs and Surbiton Park waste water treatment plant.

One of the report's major recommendations was that a new metropolitan open space policy and strategy was required to respond to the growing challenges faced in Melbourne's open space network.

VEAC chairman Duncan Malcolm said the inventory showed public open space was not evenly distributed across municipalities as established municipalities generally had less open space per capita than outer growth municipalities.

"As public open space per capita is likely to decrease over time for almost all municipalities, existing open space will need to be protected and new open space

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



provided so that Melbourne's open space network can meet the needs of its growing population," he said.

VEAC recommended that Melbourne Water continue to manage Truganina Swamp, a semi-natural wetland within a largely residential area, to ensure its biodiversity values were retained. It's an important site for migratory and wetland bird species.

VEAC is recommending that Melbourne Water continues to manage this land to ensure these biodiversity values are retained.

VOTING IMPASSE AT MELTON COUNCIL

Melton Leader– 26th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/voting-impasse-at-melton-council/>

Three Melton councillors say they still have much to offer despite the other four councillors seeming to run council affairs.

A four-three voting spilt at Melton Council meetings is a regular occurrence, with Mayor Justin Mammarella, deputy Broden Borg, Cr Kathy Majdik and Cr Renata Cugliari wielding the balance of power.

The out-voted councillors, Sophie Ramsey, Bob Turner and Garry Stock, admit the make-up of council makes their job difficult at times.

Cr Ramsey said "too often" there was a four-three spilt between the council.

"At the end of the day you can only hope each councillor goes into a council meeting and makes decisions based upon the facts they hear," she said.

But Cr Ramsey did not feel her position was redundant.

"By being there at least we can stand up and be counted and say, 'Have you thought of this?'

"We value add to the debate by providing the opposing view.

Cr Turner said the voting block did not mean that his views were not being heard.

"We do get the chance to get our views across, but it does make it difficult," he said.

Cr Stock admitted frustration.

"It does feel sometimes that the four councillors are voting against you but I'm not in their shoes," he said.

Diggers Rest resident David O'Connor is fed up with the situation and has written to the Minister for Consumer Affairs expressing his concerns about the voting split.

MELTON ON THE NBN BANDWAGON

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/melton-on-the-nbn-bandwagon/2334819.aspx>

Melton has been selected as one of the sites for the next stage of the high-speed National Broadband Network.

NBN Co released its 12-month rollout plan last week, with Melton, Ballarat, Tullamarine and the Melbourne CBD to be added to existing sites across Australia including Bacchus Marsh, which was part of the early rollout.

The network will provide speeds of up to 100 megabits per second (Mbps) to 2600 Melton residents and businesses, which will be able to buy broadband packages from one of 28 providers.

Construction of the fibre-optic network required for the high-speed internet connection will start in the next 12 months.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



NBN chief executive Mike Quigley said the latest rollout represented the start of national construction that would see the company offer connection to all of Australia's 13 million premises.

"Public education activity, to launch next year, will also explain what the rollout will mean, how to connect to the network and why it is important that the nation upgrades its telecommunications infrastructure," he said.

A detailed map of the Melton area covered by the NBN will be released next June.

Prime Minister and Lalor MP Julia Gillard said it was a major investment in Melton's future.

"Investment in the NBN is essential for Australia to be an innovative knowledge-based economy of the 21st century. It will enhance many aspects of our lives, from the way we care for our families to how we trade in goods and services," she said.

Melton is one of 49 sites in the rollout plan, adding to the 81,700 premises already connected or where connection work is under way.

Mayor Justin Mammarella said he was extremely pleased by the announcement.

"Given the scale of the project, this is a significant coup for our fast-growing municipality," he said.

"But we have quite a few areas in our municipality that still have poor access to the internet and we are very keen to see that shortfall addressed."

MELTON AMBOS CHOOSE TO SHUN DEATH HIGHWAY

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/melton-ambos-choose-to-shun-death-highway/2334826.aspx>

Having seen first-hand the pain caused by road accidents, a Melton paramedic is backing calls for the duplication of Melton Highway.

Don Ormiston has attended two fatalities on the road and believes duplicating it could reduce the level of trauma.

A paramedic in Melton for eight years, he said general driver behaviour had not changed but traffic volume had increased dramatically.

"We emergency workers take those images home with us and to our families. The impact of any accident shatters everyone.

"If widening the road would reduce accidents, it would be good. But I don't know if that is the cure. There's not one thing, there are many factors."

Mr Ormiston said the highway fatalities he had attended continued to haunt him.

"I personally don't use the road, [nor does] any of my family and many of the local's ambos don't either."

The Weekly reported this month that a Facebook group, Duplicate Melton Highway Now, where family and friends speak about those who have died on the highway, had more than 500 members.

A young relative of Narelle Bowden was killed in a collision on the highway last year and she has gathered more than 2000 signatures on a petition calling for the highway to be duplicated.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



VicRoads has no plans for duplication, but regional director Nial Finegan said it was developing a proposal for safety improvements along 19 kilometres of the highway between Sunshine Avenue and the Western Freeway.

"These improvements will aim to address the 22 run-off-road casualty crashes that have occurred in the past five years to June 30, 2011 resulting in three fatalities and 11 serious injury crashes," he said.

Upgrades could include minor road widening and resurfacing, installing safety barriers and removing hazards.

MELTON STATION CAR PARK WORK 'URGENT'

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/melton-station-car-park-work-urgent/2334824.aspx>

Melton Residents Association President Peter Rowan has echoed criticism of the state government's response to calls for urgent upgrades at Melton railway station.

Melton MP Don Nardella described Transport Minister Terry Mulder's response as "inadequate" and "weak" following community lobbying for work including the sealing of the station's car park.

Mr Mulder had simply indicated that no funding was available for the upgrade to proceed, Mr Nardella said.

"[It] shows the indifference of the Baillieu government toward rail commuters in Melton and the west generally."

Mr Rowan, who is also president of the railway station committee, said the residents association was pleased that Melton Council continued to lobby for improvements at the station.

"After we put pressure on the council, they have contacted the manager for the Transport Department, Brett Hope, who has agreed to meet with the railway committee. We believe this is a direct result of our efforts."

Upper house Western Victoria MP Jaala Pulford was also invited by the association to visit the railway station.

She expressed shock at the condition of the station car park.

Mr Rowan added: "We need bitumen with marked parking bays and basic landscaping, and the dangerously tall gum trees need to be trimmed. We also mentioned to her that we need a walkway overpass from one side of the track to the other.

"The residents association understands the electrification and duplication of the railway line is many years down the track, but the bitumen, beautification and car park markings are urgent."

VCAL FUNDING CUTS 'HURT VULNERABLE STUDENTS'

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/vcal-funding-cuts-hurt-vulnerable-students/2334820.aspx>

Principals fear the state government's decision to slash \$48 million from vocational education for year 11 and 12 students will severely affect vulnerable young people in Brimbank and Melton.

Starting next year, the government will cut \$12million of annual co-ordination funding over four years to the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning, which is designed to keep young people in school by combining industry experience with their education.

VCAL has been offered in Victoria since 2003.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Principals from across the north-west say they might have to reduce the number of VCAL places they can offer students.

Catholic Regional College Sydenham has 120 students in VCAL programs and cuts will cost it up to \$100,000. Principal Brendan Watson said the cuts would dramatically affect students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

"There are more VCAL students in areas like ours than in the rest of the state and the funding cuts could increase the number of students not completing high school," Mr Watson said.

He said co-ordination funding was vital because co-ordinators helped students get work placements.

Kurunjang Secondary College VCAL co-ordinator Marie Baker said students were concerned the program might be in jeopardy.

"It is a really valuable program and in some cases their only option is VCAL and it is their pathway from school to work," she said.

"Some of the students aren't able to progress through the VCE for different reasons."

There are 40 students at the college enrolled in VCAL. Up to eight have moved into full-time work or another course since the start of the year.

"Many have secured traineeships or apprenticeships as carpenters, mechanics, working in childcare or plumbing, or a few are doing electrical engineering," Ms Baker said.

She said more money was needed for the program to run successfully.

"There's now a fear in students from money being withdrawn from school programs ... if we are to do all the things the VCAL program prescribes, it would be more hands-on learning and getting out into the workplace."

Government spokesman James Martin said the funding changes related only to a special payment that was made to establish the program eight years ago.

It would have no effect on actual funding for students.

"Funding for students to take part in the program has increased to accommodate additional numbers and this will continue to be the case as student numbers grow.

"The Coalition is committed to VCAL as an option, not just for students at risk of disengagement but for all students."

Keilor Labor MP Natalie Hutchins and Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews, who visited CRC last Thursday to see the school's VCAL program in action, called on the government to reinstate co-ordination funding.

"The funding being cut is used to pay for VCAL co-ordinators who help to push the students harder and give them one-on-one attention they might not get in VCE," Ms Hutchins said.

Principals at VCAL schools across the state, including many from the north-west, last week took out an advertisement in metropolitan newspapers protesting against the cuts.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



MOORABOOL COUNCIL, FEDS IN ROADS TALKS

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moorabool-council-feds-in-roads-talks/2334831.aspx>

Improvements to the Western Highway will go ahead if the federal government continues the Roads to Recovery funding scheme, Moorabool mayor Pat Griffin says.

Cr Griffin and the shire's chief executive, Rob Croxford, discussed the proposed roadworks, which would include a southern extension of Halletts Way to Griffith Street, with federal politicians in Canberra two weeks ago.

As part of a regional delegation along with representatives of Pyrenees and Northern Grampians councils, they lobbied for the \$4.5 billion funding to continue beyond 2014 in a bid to ensure road safety.

By the time the current program closes in 2014, Moorabool Council will have received an extra \$4 million for its roads budget.

In the past five years, Roads to Recovery grants have contributed to a number of projects across Moorabool, including the Clarendon-Lal Lal bridge, the Spencer Road bridge in Ballan, as well as an upgrade of almost 20 kilometres of other roads.

Mr Croxford said Roads to Recovery provided a vital funding source, contributing to nearly a quarter of the shire's roads budget.

"The extra resources needed to repair recent flood damage to our shire's road network again highlights how important it is that local government has access to ongoing federal funding for roads," he said..

EVICTON FEARS DELAY BACCHUS MARSH RESERVE UPGRADE

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/eviction-fears-delay-bacchus-marsh-reserve-upgrade/2334829.aspx>

Long-awaited upgrades to Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Reserve have stalled, with two committee members refusing to allow Moorabool Council to take over management of the site.

The council wants to assume management of the 120-hectare reserve, which is Crown land managed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, so it can redevelop the site as a multi-use regional sports centre.

Although DSE has indicated it's willing to hand control of the site to the council, the committee of management has to resign as a formality, department spokesman Brian Simpson said.

Two of the eight committee members are refusing to resign, saying they want greater assurances that user groups won't be kicked out.

East ward's Cr Allan Comrie, who has served on the management committee for more than 30 years, said the standstill was "extremely frustrating".

"As a committee, we've been seeking council upgrades to the reserve for quite a few years, but now that we've got that opportunity some members are suddenly hesitant," he said.

Footscray and District Poultry Club's representative Jack Pavey and community representative Jen Moterwoll are the two members who refused to resign at the committee meeting on October 10.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Mr Pavey wants a longer-term assurance that the club will stay at the reserve because it has injected a lot of money into developing the site, according to Cr Comrie.

If the council takes over management of the reserve, it will funnel more than \$1 million of developers' funds from the neighbouring new housing estate into the site and will apply for various state and federal grants.

Cr Comrie said the council was looking for more sports grounds to accommodate junior soccer, football and cricket.

Bacchus Marsh Soccer Club president Noel Stanley says the club has 150 members aged 5-18, but could have doubled in size this year if facilities were better.

"We've had very meagre requirements up until now, but we're at the stage where we can't expand."

Mayor Pat Griffin said the council was negotiating with the remaining committee members whose fears of being evicted were unfounded.

"It's not going to be an exercise in shafting anyone."

MELTON STATION CAR PARK WORK 'URGENT'

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/melton-station-car-park-work-urgent/2334824.aspx>

Melton Residents Association president Peter Rowan has echoed criticism of the state government's response to calls for urgent upgrades at Melton railway station.

Melton MP Don Nardella described Transport Minister Terry Mulder's response as "inadequate" and "weak" following community lobbying for work including the sealing of the station's car park.

Mr Mulder had simply indicated that no funding was available for the upgrade to proceed, Mr Nardella said.

"[It] shows the indifference of the Baillieu government toward rail commuters in Melton and the west generally."

Mr Rowan, who is also president of the railway station committee, said the residents association was pleased that Melton Council continued to lobby for improvements at the station.

"After we put pressure on the council, they have contacted the manager for the Transport Department, Brett Hope, who has agreed to meet with the railway committee. We believe this is a direct result of our efforts."

Upper house Western Victoria MP Jaala Pulford was also invited by the association to visit the railway station.

She expressed shock at the condition of the station car park.

Mr Rowan added: "We need bitumen with marked parking bays and basic landscaping, and the dangerously tall gum trees need to be trimmed. We also mentioned to her that we need a walkway overpass from one side of the track to the other.

"The residents association understands the electrification and duplication of the railway line is many years down the track, but the bitumen, beautification and car park markings are urgent."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



MELTON AMBOS CHOOSE TO SHUN DEATH HIGHWAY

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/melton-ambos-choose-to-shun-death-highway/2334826.aspx>

Having seen first-hand the pain caused by road accidents, a Melton paramedic is backing calls for the duplication of Melton Highway.

Don Ormiston has attended two fatalities on the road and believes duplicating it could reduce the level of trauma.

A paramedic in Melton for eight years, he said general driver behaviour had not changed but traffic volume had increased dramatically.

"We emergency workers take those images home with us and to our families. The impact of any accident shatters everyone.

"If widening the road would reduce accidents, it would be good. But I don't know if that is the cure. There's not one thing, there are many factors."

Mr Ormiston said the highway fatalities he had attended continued to haunt him.

"I personally don't use the road, [nor does] any of my family and many of the locals ambos don't either."

The Weekly reported this month that a Facebook group, Duplicate Melton Highway Now, where family and friends speak about those who have died on the highway, had more than 500 members.

A young relative of Narelle Bowden was killed in a collision on the highway last year and she has gathered more than 2000 signatures on a petition calling for the highway to be duplicated.

VicRoads has no plans for duplication, but regional director Nial Finegan said it was developing a proposal for safety improvements along 19 kilometres of the highway between Sunshine Avenue and the Western Freeway.

"These improvements will aim to address the 22 run-off-road casualty crashes that have occurred in the past five years to June 30, 2011 resulting in three fatalities and 11 serious injury crashes," he said.

Upgrades could include minor road widening and resurfacing, installing safety barriers and removing hazards.

AVENUE OF HONOUR FATE IN MINISTER'S HANDS

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/avenue-of-honour-fate-in-ministers-hands/2334832.aspx>

Moorabool Council will not pursue its push for the Avenue of Honour redevelopment if the final judgment on the matter is not in its favour.

"Whatever the minister decides, this is it," mayor Pat Griffin said.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy will make the final decision on the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Woolpack Road and the Avenue of Honour and the removal of nine elm trees that honour World War I veterans.

Heritage Victoria rejected the plans, with its decision in turn dismissed by the council and VicRoads.

A three-day Heritage Council appeal hearing was completed on June 24.

The report, which has been with the Heritage Council for four months, was last week being finalised before being handed to the minister.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Reports by another media outlet that the document was in the minister's hands have been confirmed as incorrect.

"The [Heritage Council] committee still hasn't signed off on it; all three members have to sign it," a Heritage Council spokeswoman said.

"We have to be sure everything is correct; it's a complex report."

She said current legislation did not provide for an appeal after the minister's decision.

However, it is understood that objections with the actual process could be taken to the Supreme Court.

Avenue Preservation Group member Damien Strangio said objectors would not back down if the plan was approved.

"We'd be incredibly disappointed, as we've had a strong ruling from Heritage Victoria against this plan," he said.

He said the group would have to have "a very rich knight" to assist it in taking the matter to the Supreme Court.

Cr Griffin admitted the process had been "quite tiring" and he was looking forward to a decision being made and "it all being over".

VicRoads Avenue of Honour project director John Moylan said it would determine its next course of action after a final decision had been made.

MOORABOOL COUNCIL SLATED OVER TURBINES

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moorabool-council-slated-over-turbines/2334833.aspx>

Moorabool residents whose homes will soon be surrounded by wind turbines have blamed the council for "hanging them out to dry".

Mount Wallace resident Michelle Evans said the 121 turbines slated for the Moorabool and Yaloak South wind farms needed to be cut back and built farther away from people's homes.

She said councillors had not lobbied hard enough on their behalf and council support was their "only hope".

At a recent meeting, the council voted to amend its wind turbine planning policy in line with the new state government rules restricting new turbines within five kilometres of towns and two kilometres from residences without landowners' approval.

Ms Evans said although the council had pushed for the new restrictions, the changes would not apply to the two wind farms as planning had already been approved.

"They haven't fought very hard and I don't have confidence in the council - this area is full of lifestyle properties, not just farmland, and these turbines will affect a lot of people," she said.

"Focus needs to be on the council at the moment because they're the only hope we've got. We're on our own and don't have the power or the voice that state politicians are going to listen to."

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Mayor Pat Griffin said he was disappointed the new regulations were not retrospective.

"I don't understand why they shouldn't be mandatory for everyone, even the turbines that have been approved but not built," he said.

"Last week, I had a call from a very distressed resident in the northern part of the shire who lives near the Hepburn wind farm, more than 500 metres from a turbine, and the noise was unbearable. I told them to stick cotton wool in their ears, but there's just nothing else we can do at the present time."

Cr Griffin said the council was trying to find loopholes in the Planning and Environment Act to help worried residents.

MORE FAMILIES FALL INTO SPIRAL OF POVERTY

Melton Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/more-families-fall-into-spiral-of-poverty/2334834.aspx>

More Moorabool families are at risk of descending into poverty than ever before, a St Vincent de Paul Society report has revealed.

Child and Family Services (CAFS) Moorabool manager Paul Huggett says his team is working with an increasing number of residents struggling to pay for essentials such as rent, food, bills, education and healthcare.

There were already more than 20 at-risk families in need of help in Moorabool, he said.

"Cost of living is a major problem. There's also a drastic shortage of affordable or public housing in the area," Mr Huggett said.

"We're working regularly with families who have multiple needs. Just being able to navigate the Centrelink system can be a huge challenge in itself."

A relative price index report has revealed that since 2006, relative to the consumer price index, necessities such as fruit and vegetables have risen by 8 per cent, public transport by 5.1 per cent, health services by 9.7 per cent, education by 12.1 per cent, and utilities by 40.9 per cent.

Renters faced an increase of 16.8 per cent, while home owners enjoyed a 2.5 per cent rise.

"While those who are relatively well off are able to make choices about their spending and saving, the report tells a very different story for those with no money to spare," Victorian Council of Social Service CEO Cath Smith said.

Mr Huggett said CAFS provided emergency relief for vulnerable Moorabool families with vouchers for things like food and fuel.

Struggling families are allocated three vouchers per financial year, but Mr Huggett said some had already been forced to use all of their vouchers in less than four months.

Paul McDonald, co-chairman of last week's Anti-Poverty Week, said the gap between the rich and poor was widening in Australia.

CHOPPER COPPER PAYS A FLYING VISIT TO MELTON

Melton Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/chopper-copper-pays-a-flying-visit-to-melton/>

Their mission, should they choose to accept it, was to keep news of a top secret deployment from some intrigued year twos.

Teachers at Mowbray College were tight-lipped about a surprise visit from the Victoria Police air wing last week.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Landing on the school's oval, the special visit was part of the year two's Heroes in the Community inquiry unit.

The students were able to climb aboard and see how a helicopter works.

Student Charisma said it was a great experience.

"We were so excited when we saw the helicopter arriving," she said.

"Even our teacher, Mrs Di Dato, had kept this secret from us."

Fellow student Kiahna said it was exciting to see how the helicopter worked.

"We were allowed to hold the helmet, which is heavy because it is made of lots of different things," she said.

"It had a mouth piece so you can talk into it and hear other people giving important information."

The school thanked acting Sergeant Heath Merry for visiting.

HEALTHY HABITATS REWARDED IN MELTON AND MOORABOOL

Melton Leader– 24th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/healthy-habitats-rewarded-in-melton-and-moorabool/>

Melbourne Water is seeking applications from community groups in Melton and Moorabool shires for a \$600,000 grants program that helps boost the health and appearance of local rivers and creeks.

Not-for-profit groups can use the funds from Melbourne Water's Community Grants Program to help cover administrative and promotional costs or for projects improving streamside habitat, such as revegetation and weed control.

In the 2010-11 funding round, grants totalling \$190,000 were allocated to 30 not-for-profit groups in Melbourne's west.

Manager of Waterways (West region) Gavan O'Neill said last year's round funded projects across Melbourne that collectively boosted the health of waterways, achieving 30km of weed control and 15km of revegetation.

Project grants of up to \$20,000 are available for on-ground projects addressing natural resource management issues.

Meanwhile, group support grants are available for up to \$1000 for general administrative assistance, insurance, incorporation and/or promotional activities.

MELTON COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

Melton Leader– 24th October 2011

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-council-news-in-brief/>

The Melton Train Station Advisory Committee will schedule its long-awaited second meeting after finally appointing a member from the Department of Transport to sit on the committee.

The group has been waiting for the department to delegate a member after the change in State Government.

A BLOCK of land at 215-219 Coburns Rd, Melton West, was approved to be subdivided into three lots. The land is owned by the Department of Human Services, with lot 1 to contain a single-storey brick home, 10 community care units and the existing former Salvation Army hall.

Lots 2 and 3 are likely to have a single home developed on each.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



THE council is hosting free community events to celebrate Children's Week, including the Let's Move family day at Melton Community Hall on October 26 from noon-2pm.

For a full list of events visit melton.vic.gov.au.

IN partnership with Post Placement Support Service, the council has established a support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Information sessions will be held at Melton Community Hall on October 25 from 10.30am-noon and at Springside Children and Community Centre on October 26 from noon-2.30pm.

For more details call 9747 7200.

Nominations for the 2012 Powercor Melton Business Excellence Awards are now open.

Information sessions will be held at Melton Civic Centre on October 26 and November 23 (6-8pm). Bookings are essential.

MOONEE VALLEY

MOONEE VALLEY RACECOURSE MASTER PLAN

Moonee Valley Leader – 27th October 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/moonee-valley-racecourse-master-plan/>

FINAL details of what the new Moonee Valley Racecourse could look like in 20 years have been released.

Moonee Valley Council confirmed this afternoon it had received the last remaining documents outlining the multi-million development, which will include new residential apartments up to 25 storeys.

The Moonee Valley Racing Club's plans include 3000 apartments, bringing in an extra 6000 residents to Moonee Ponds – a 52 per cent increase in the existing population – over 15-20 years.

>>HAVE YOUR SAY: How do you feel about the racecourse development? Leave your comments below.

Also central to the plans is a realignment of the track and extending the home straight. A new south-facing grandstand will also be built.

The existing grandstand and facilities on the western side will be demolished to make way for the apartments and community space.

Moonee Valley Council will discuss the master plan at a meeting on November 15, but this will largely be about planning procedure.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



It's likely residents won't be able to have an official say until 2012, because the council must first approach the Planning Minister to gain permission to start the community consultation.

After the consultation phase, the council will be closer to deciding whether it should approve the development, however the racing club is hoping for a speedy process.

An application to re-zone the site is attached to the residential and racing master plan.

There are no apparent major changes from the draft master plan released in May, which first sparked public concern over traffic congestion and the height of the apartment towers.

The latest document has comprehensive details on the projected traffic flows and impact on surrounding public transport.

This includes 13,000 extra vehicle movements per day and up to 1500 extra public transport passengers during peak hour. This would be enough for one extra train service

ASCOT VALE CASE GOES TO VCAT

Moonee Valley Leader– 26th October 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/ascot-vale-case-goes-to-vcat/>

The future of a historic dairy in Ascot Vale is in the hands of the state's planning tribunal after the Victorian Government rejected calls for heritage protection.

A proposal for a 24-apartment development on the site, at 255-257 Union Rd, was put forward to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal last week.

Moonee Valley Council had asked Planning Minister Matthew Guy for interim heritage controls on the properties.

The council has argued that the former dairy and distribution centre, dating back to 1880, was an integral part of the area's history but Mr Guy's spokesman, Nicholas McGowan, said it would not be appropriate for the minister to intervene while the process was in motion.

The council said it was yet to receive a formal decision from the government but Cr Jim Cusack said it was disappointing to hear of the outcome.

Resident Suzanne Russo said members from Lorne St, Maribyrnong Rd, Normanby St and Union Rd attended the hearing to argue against the proposal.

The applicant, SBJ Planning, did not respond to the Leader's request to comment.

ESSENDON'S AFTON STREET WETLAND NEEDS FRIENDS TO RELY ON

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/essendons-afton-street-wetland-needs-friends-to-rely-on/2333352.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council is calling for volunteers to establish a Friends of Afton Street Wetland group to help preserve and enhance the municipality's first wetland.

It is expected the "friends" will meet regularly and carry out activities at the wetland including planting, weeding, water monitoring, undertaking community education programs, conducting bird surveys and mulching.

Moonee Valley mayor John Sipek said residents could provide a special service as founding members of a Friends of the Wetland group.

"Being part of a new environment group could be very rewarding.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"It's a chance to spend more time outdoors, learn new things and meet new people, all while helping the wetland flourish."

Cr Shirley Cornish, who holds the environment and conservation portfolio, said high rainfall had helped the wetland progress well since it was opened in June.

"The plants are now well established and we've had some great fauna sightings already including white-necked and white-faced herons."

Cr Cornish said there were also reports that Pacific black ducks and black-fronted dotterels had bred in the wetlands, and there had been sightings of chestnut teals and welcome swallows.

The wetlands was established along the Maribyrnong River to protect and improve its water quality. It is also used to collect stormwater from the Hoffman Main Drain to provide sustainable water to five sports ovals.

Details: Residents interested in becoming a founding member of the Friends of Afton Street Wetland group can phone Michelle Gooding on 92438888 or email environment @mvcc.vic.gov.au

MOONEE VALLEY BURGLARIES ON THE RISE

Moonee Valley Leader— 25th October 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/moonee-valley-burglaries-on-the-rise-fbready/>

Police have warned residents to protect themselves from burglaries in response to a spate in the municipality.

The warning comes after Moonee Valley police made five arrests for alleged burglaries in Ascot Vale, Flemington and Keilor East this month.

Two women, aged 29 and 33, were arrested last Tuesday for an alleged burglary in Ascot Vale.

A Deer Park woman, 35, and Carrum Downs woman, 29, were also arrested during an alleged burglary in Flemington on October 4.

A few hours later, a Kealba man, 40, was arrested over an alleged burglary in East Keilor.

Moonee Valley CIU Detective Sen-Sgt Mick Prowse said residential burglary was an ongoing problem and urged the community to be vigilant when away from their homes.

He said residents could protect themselves from thieves by having good locks and not leaving implements such as picks or shovels around the house.

"Thieves are opportunistic and will take what they can get," Sen-Sgt Prowse said.

He said jewellery was a popular target as it was harder to trace than electronic goods.

"In the past decade, as electronics have become cheaper and cheaper and with market saturation, people have gone for jewellery," he said.

Sen-Sgt Prowse urged residents to take photographs of their jewellery as a way to identify it if it was taken.

New statistics, compiled by RACV, show homes in the municipality were being burgled more often, with one in 48 homes in Travancore and Ascot Vale burgled in the past year.

They were followed by Kensington and Flemington (one in 63), North Essendon and Strathmore (one in 80) and Avondale Heights (one in 85).

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



THUMBS UP FOR COUNCIL

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valleys-brekkie-success-spreads/2333356.aspx>

It's been an outstanding couple of months for Moonee Valley Council. A government-sponsored resident survey confirmed that we are very happy with the council's performance.

Seventy per cent of residents polled gave the council a strong tick of approval.

Last month, the council was also judged the best in Victoria for its management of water assets and will be nominated for a national award next year.

SCIENCEWORKS OFFERS NIGHT OUT

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/scienceworks-offers-night-out/2333909.aspx>

Scienceworks is giving 'grown-ups' from across the west the chance to relive their youth with an adults-only night at the science museum.

The Big Kids Night Out is a special event designed to encourage adults who may not normally come to Scienceworks to experience the museum in an after-dark environment.

The Big Kids Night out will be on November 5.

For more information, contact 93924800 or visit museumvictoria.com.au/scienceworks/

ESSENDON'S AFTON STREET WETLAND NEEDS FRIENDS TO RELY ON

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/essendons-afton-street-wetland-needs-friends-to-rely-on/2333352.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council is calling for volunteers to establish a Friends of Afton Street Wetland group to help preserve and enhance the municipality's first wetland.

It is expected the "friends" will meet regularly and carry out activities at the wetland including planting, weeding, water monitoring, undertaking community education programs, conducting bird surveys and mulching.

Moonee Valley mayor John Sipek said residents could provide a special service as founding members of a Friends of the Wetland group.

"Being part of a new environment group could be very rewarding.

"It's a chance to spend more time outdoors, learn new things and meet new people, all while helping the wetland flourish."

Cr Shirley Cornish, who holds the environment and conservation portfolio, said high rainfall had helped the wetland progress well since it was opened in June.

"The plants are now well established and we've had some great fauna sightings already including white-necked and white-faced herons."

Cr Cornish said there were also reports that Pacific black ducks and black-fronted dotterels had bred in the wetlands, and there had been sightings of chestnut teals and welcome swallows.

The wetlands was established along the Maribyrnong River to protect and improve its water quality. It is also used to collect stormwater from the Hoffman Main Drain to provide sustainable water to five sports ovals.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Details: Residents interested in becoming a founding member of the Friends of Afton Street Wetland group can phone Michelle Gooding on 92438888 or email environment @mvcc.vic.gov.au

MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL, RESIDENTS WAIT ON 'DAIRY' D-DAY

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-council-residents-wait-on-dairy-dday/2333347.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council has "dropped the ball" if it's serious about protecting a potentially significant site, according to a government spokesman.

Nicholas McGowan, spokesman for Planning Minister Matthew Guy, said the council's plea for the minister to step in and put an interim heritage order on a Moonee Ponds property which was already destined for the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal was inappropriate.

"The council is barking up the wrong tree [with its request to the minister] and should have approached Heritage Victoria," Mr McGowan said.

Residents believe the property at 255 and 257 Union Road could be part of the former Moonee Ponds Dairy, which operated in the early 1900s.

It has been earmarked for demolition to make way for a four-storey, 24-unit residential development.

Moonee Valley Council opposed the development and it was referred to VCAT, but the council then threw its support behind the residents and asked Mr Guy to step in and give the site interim heritage protection.

Mr McGowan said while the council's letter to Mr Guy did ask for an urgent decision it did not stipulate why the decision was urgent.

The VCAT hearing went ahead last week.

A decision is expected in four to six weeks.

Moonee Ponds resident Jan Shield said she was pleased that residents had the chance to present their case at VCAT.

AT BUCKLEY PARK COLLEGE, CUTS RUN DEEP

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/at-buckley-park-college-cuts-run-deep/2333354.aspx>

Essendon's Buckley Park College has joined a growing list of schools urging the state government to scrap its plans to cut funding for vocational learning.

State Education Minister Martin Dixon announced in August that \$12 million would be withdrawn from the Victorian Applied Learning program which gives students an alternative to studying VCE.

The funding will mean the loss of program co-ordinators at schools. The co-ordinator is involved in tailoring VCAL courses and is a liaison between businesses, the school, students and parents.

Buckley Park principal Tony Tartaro said he hoped the government would have a change of heart. VCAL co-ordinator funding equates to about \$42,500 at Buckley Park.

Mr Tartaro said the school had 18 students studying VCAL this year. So successful the program, another 37 students were enrolled for next year.

This year's participants have successfully run a cafe as part of their course. The cafe initially opened one day a week but has increased to three.

"At a time when we are seeing that sort of growth it's especially hard [to lose the funding]," Mr Tartaro said.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"We run on the smell of an oily rag as it is, [finding money for a co-ordinator] is doable but there is a point where you can't keep chopping and chipping away at things.

"It won't be that one thing will be cut to find the money, it will be a little bit here and there, there might be some maintenance we were planning to do that will now also get put off."

He said the state government argument a co-ordinator was not required now that VCAL was firmly established in schools was not true.

"The whole program is responsive to the kids, their needs - each year it is tailored to where the kids talents and interests lie - it takes time to set these things up."

Mr Tartaro joins principals at Essendon Keilor College and Rosehill Secondary in Niddrie who have also hit out at the plan.

Both schools have more than 30 students enrolled in VCAL.

Rosehill principal Peter Rouse said the government underrated the role of a VCAL co-ordinator.

Niddrie MP and opposition spokesman for education Rob Hulls said the government "ought to back down" and "admit they have made a big mistake".

MOONEE VALLEY'S BREKKIE SUCCESS SPREADS

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valleys-brekkie-success-spreads/2333356.aspx>

What a magnificent success story is Moonee Valley's annual Pink Ribbon Breakfast which created attendance and fund-raising records at Flemington last Thursday.

Organiser Di Fincher says that on early estimates about 850 guests attended and more than \$70,000 was raised during the morning.

In seven years the breakfast, inspired by former mayor Lydia Kauzlaric who died from breast cancer, has raised \$295,000 for much-need cancer research.

Strathmore Community Bank is the major sponsor while the council also is a strong financial supporter.

The breakfast is firmly established in Moonee Valley's social calendar, finding a bigger venue might be the next challenge.

Volunteer Jess Hunichen, of Strathmore, received the Lydia Kauzlaric Award for her ongoing work for the breast cancer cause.

COX PLATE CROWDS DOWN, BUT BEHAVIOUR'S BETTER

Moonee Valley Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/cox-plate-crowds-down-but-behaviours-better/2333351.aspx>

Despite a smaller than expected crowd, Moonee Valley's biggest day of the year delivered the goods with a surprise Cox Plate winner and a vocal but well-behaved crowd.

With wet weather keeping the crowd to 26,000, police and the Moonee Valley Racing Club had nothing but good words to say about how the day played out.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Club chief executive Michael Browell said despite the damp conditions and threatening storm clouds the day went to plan.

"It has been a huge success for the racing club, corporate sponsors and for race lovers.

"The highlight for me was seeing Black Caviar. I think seeing the greatest sprinter in the world win her 15th race in a row was a pleasure for everyone at the course to see.

"It doesn't matter if it was a small field with just four other runners, the crowd got to see Black Caviar and that's just a pleasure for anyone who loves racing." Racegoer Sam Penhalluriack said he loved his first time at a Cox Plate.

"I've been to Flemington a few times but the atmosphere during the final stages of the Cox Plate was something else.

"It was like being at a rock concert. I just wish I tipped the winner."

Moonee Valley acting police Inspector David Byrt said overall the crowd was well behaved. Only four people were ejected.

MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL, RESIDENTS WAIT ON 'DAIRY' D-DAY

Moonee Valley Leader— 25th October 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-council-residents-wait-on-dairy-dday/2333347.aspx>

Moonee Valley Council has "dropped the ball" if it's serious about protecting a potentially significant site, according to a government spokesman.

Nicholas McGowan, spokesman for Planning Minister Matthew Guy, said the council's plea for the minister to step in and put an interim heritage order on a Moonee Ponds property which was already destined for the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal was inappropriate.

"The council is barking up the wrong tree [with its request to the minister] and should have approached Heritage Victoria," Mr McGowan said.

Residents believe the property at 255 and 257 Union Road could be part of the former Moonee Ponds Dairy, which operated in the early 1900s.

It has been earmarked for demolition to make way for a four-storey, 24-unit residential development.

Moonee Valley Council opposed the development and it was referred to VCAT, but the council then threw its support behind the residents and asked Mr Guy to step in and give the site interim heritage protection.

Mr McGowan said while the council's letter to Mr Guy did ask for an urgent decision it did not stipulate why the decision was urgent.

The VCAT hearing went ahead last week.

A decision is expected in four to six weeks.

Moonee Ponds resident Jan Shield said she was pleased that residents had the chance to present their case at VCAT.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



WYNDHAM

FINDING A VOICE OUT WEST

Wyndham Leader– 30th October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/finding-a-voice-out-west/>

The Wyndham Malayalee community group is giving a voice to new Indian arrivals to the western suburbs.

The group hit the airwaves this month with a new radio program on 88.9 WYN-FM.

The segment is spoken in Malayalam, a language from the Karala region of India, and airs for an hour at 3pm every Saturday.

Wyndham Malayalee community group president Krishna Kumar Somavarma said the program was designed to support new migrants and promote community networking and the Malayalee culture.

“We hope to provide entertainment and education to families who are new to this area, particularly to young children who can learn their mother tongue and listen to new music,” he said.

The radio segment is presented by four Malayalee women and features news and current affairs, job opportunities, interviews, talkback and panel discussions.

Mr Kumar Somavarma and his family moved to Australia in 2004.

He started the Wyndham Malayalee community group in February 2008 with 11 other families.

The group now has the support of 104 families who regularly carry out charity work and partake in fortnightly Malayalee language classes at the Heaths Rd library in Hoppers Crossing.

Mr Kumar Somavarma said the group wanted to cater to migrants settling in the west who had different interests and concerns from those in other areas of Melbourne.

More than 5000 Malayalam people now live in Melbourne.

“We hope more people will learn about the program and listen in,” Mr Kumar Somavarma said.

COUNCIL STAFF DELAY VOTE ON WORK BANS

Wyndham Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/council-staff-delay-vote-on-work-bans/2336112.aspx>

Wyndham Council staff have delayed a vote on staging a stop-work meeting pending the outcome of an all-staff vote on a new enterprise bargaining agreement.

About 400 workers who are members of the Australian Services Union and Australian Nurses Federation were last Tuesday expected to vote on a possible four-hour stop-work meeting.

But they opted to delay the ballot, concerned that stopping work would not help them get management back to the negotiating table. ASU Wyndham organiser Dave Beckley said the council had not been willing to continue negotiations since industrial action began on October 4.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"Management have resolutely refused to get back to the table," he said. "Members felt nothing they do at this stage will get [management] to come back to the table."

Staff have also ramped up their industrial action, with Wyndham residents able to dump rubbish at the tip for free yesterday and today. Workers have voted not to collect rubbish from shopping centres throughout this week, while maternal and child health nurses are continuing bans on visiting children older than one.

ANF members visited a children's picnic at Werribee Park on Sunday to raise awareness of their campaign by handing out flyers to families.

Council CEO Kerry Thompson said while it and the unions had reached agreement on a number of issues since negotiations began on April 1, key issues were still being debated, which had led management to put the EBA to a staff vote.

Staff have until November 4 to vote on the EBA.

POINT COOK POOL: WHY DELAY REVIEW?

Wyndham Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/point-cook-pool-why-delay-review/2336096.aspx>

A group of Point Cook residents is demanding to know why Truganina ward councillors failed to support a call for an immediate review of Wyndham Council's aquatic strategy.

Louise Shaw, Claire Mackay and Loren Bartley attended Monday night's council meeting and were disappointed to see councillors Bob Fairclough, Kim McAliney and Glenn Goodfellow vote to review the strategy in 2013.

Ms Shaw also expressed disappointment in Cr Fairclough's initial support for a recommendation from council staff which would have seen the review start in 2015.

She will write to the three councillors. "I'm really surprised by the whole thing. I was pleased that Cr Goodfellow wanted to bring it forward but he should have agreed with [Cr Cynthia Manson's request] to [review] it now."

Imaroo ward's Cr Manson and Chaffey ward's Cr Shane Bourke spoke in favour of reviewing the strategy immediately, with Cr Bourke saying he could see no reason why the council should wait until 2013 or 2015. "There are too many concerns, not just from the Point Cook residents, but from right across the board."

Cr Mason called on her colleagues to scrap the existing strategy, believing it did not address the needs of the community.

She said that if the council waited four years to begin the review it could miss out on land to build a new pool.

VET FEARS ON 'HARMLESS' FAMILY PETS BEING PUT DOWN

Wyndham Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/vet-fears-on-harmless-family-pets-being-put-down/2336099.aspx>

A Point Cook vet is calling on the state government to amend its restricted breed legislation, believing many harmless family pets are being put down because of the new laws.

Karen Davies was among hundreds of dog owners who took to the streets of Melbourne on Sunday to protest against the legislation, which was introduced last month following the fatal mauling in August of St Albans four-year-old Ayen Chol by a neighbour's dog.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



The new laws apply to all restricted-breed dogs and requires them to be registered with local councils.

The dogs must also be de-sexed, micro-chipped and kept in a secure, escape-proof enclosure with warning signs. When outside the owner's premises, dogs must be muzzled and leashed and under the supervision of someone aged 17 or older. Failure to comply can result in significant fines and seizure of the dog.

Ms Davies decided to take part in the rally after she had to put down a pit bull which had been abandoned.

She said the dog had been well-trained and was well-behaved but appeared to have been dumped by owners who were either unable to comply with the new legislation or unsure of their rights.

"I've got clients who are not sure of their rights and responsibilities under the new legislation. The laws are causing anxiety within the community," she said.

"Some owners are concerned because they are not in a position to comply with the new legislation. Some are renters and can't make modifications to the property to comply."

Ms Davies has called on the government to amend the legislation and assess individual dogs rather than labelling entire breeds as dangerous. She said pit bulls were often a mixture of different breeds, so no two pit bulls displayed the same characteristics.

She was also concerned the legislation isolated breeds deemed 'dangerous' from the community, preventing them from taking part in training and other activities which would teach them how to behave.

"We have a large number of these dogs in our clinic and we don't have a problem with them because they are well trained and exercised.

"I believe there should be laws for dangerous dogs but I don't believe [the legislation] is the right way to treat a good dog."

The RSPCA has previously expressed concern about the impact of the legislation on restricted-breed dogs.

There are 22 registered restricted breeds dogs in Wyndham.

VCAL CUTS: SCHOOLS PONDER BUDGET RE-THINK

Wyndham Weekly– 26th October 2011

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/vcal-cuts-schools-ponder-budget-rethink/2336115.aspx>

A State Government decision to slash funding for the vocational alternative to VCE is likely to put pressure on schools to re-think their budgets.

For Tarneit Secondary College principal Michael Fawcett, plans for separate co-ordinators for Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning and VCE programs look to have been scuppered with the two roles likely to be combined, even before the new school opens its doors next year.

"In order to keep the VCAL program we're going to have to find some money from elsewhere, which means we're going have to make some difficult decisions of staffing and facilities," Mr Fawcett said.

"It [the funding cuts] will prevent us from doing as much as we originally planned, which is not ideal.

"Ideally we would have liked some separation between the two programs, but this now looks unlikely.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



"It's a shame because having a separate co-ordinator for the VCAL program provides a higher level respect for the program in some ways."

Mr Fawcett said construction of the new school, on the corner of Leakes and Begonia roads in Tarneit, was ahead of schedule.

Interest in the school had already proven very strong following a recent information session for the public.

"We had 120 people turn up to an information session recently, which is a great start," he said.

POINT COOK POOL: RESIDENTS VOW TO PRESS ON

Wyndham Weekly— 26th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/werribee-hoppers-crossing/319/story/142975.html>

Point Cook residents have vowed to continue their fight for a swimming pool despite Wyndham Council deciding to wait until 2013 to assess the need for pools in growing areas. Councillors were originally asked to wait until 2015 to review the aquatic strategy, which recommends Wyndham's next swimming pool be built in Tarneit.

But following objections from councillors Cynthia Manson and Shane Bourke on Monday night, an amendment was put forward by Cr Glenn Goodfellow to review the strategy in 2013. It was passed five votes to two, with councillors Goodfellow, John Menegazzo, Marcel Mahfoud, Kim McAliney and Bob Fairclough voting in favour. Councillors Heather Marcus and Adele De Crescenzo were absent from the meeting.

Resident Loren Bartley said while the decision was disappointing it would not stop Point Cook residents from lobbying council.

"We are still going to progress our strategy to get a pool in Point Cook as soon as possible.

"If land becomes available prior to 2013, we will lobby the council to purchase the land.

"The fact that [the council] brought it forward two years is showing they understand the issues."

The Point Cook Residents Group has already made a 16-page submission urging the council to build a pool in Point Cook.

It criticised the way in which the council had consulted the community on the strategy, saying only two people attended a community consultation meeting on July 14.

Cr Goodfellow said it was important the council recognised the concerns of the community and took an in-depth look at the needs of communities in the north-west and south-east of Wyndham.

"I think we should bring it [the review] forward and I think 2013 is a good compromise."

WIN FOR WYNDHAM VALE

Wyndham Star— 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/werribee-hoppers-crossing/319/story/142975.html>

Wyndham Vale homeowners are breathing a sigh of relief as their suburb was one of the only ones in Melbourne to reverse the decreasing house prices.

According to figures released by the Real Estate Institute of Victoria, the average house price in Wyndham Vale increased 6.1 per cent to \$350,000 making it sixth on the list of top 10 growth suburbs for the last quarter.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Truganina and Tarneit also showed no signs of being affected by the house price slump, recording growth of 4.3 per cent to \$365,000 and 2.1 per cent to \$370,000 respectively.

REIV CEO Enzo Raimondo said Wyndham Vale was outperforming other more up market ones because it was still relatively affordable.

"The recent trend of reduced demand in the more expensive segments of the market has continued. The effects of the surge in population between 2005 and 2010 are still bolstering demand in the more affordable suburbs," Mr Raimondo said.

"Across Melbourne this means that the outer suburbs have recorded an overall better result than the inner ones have."

It comes as the median house price across the whole of Melbourne dropped by 2.8 per cent, which Mr Raimondo attributed to hesitant buyers.

"This serves as another reminder that the state of the housing market is directly linked to the health of the economy. Despite evidence that the local economy continues to outperform many of our trading partners, we are now experiencing a soft housing market," he said.

"The 2.8 per cent reduction on the revised median house price largely reverses the small gains of the June quarter and confirms that, overall, there has been very little capital growth over the past 12 months."

BIGGER THINGS TO COME TARNEIT SCHOOL'S WAY

Wyndham Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/bigger-things-to-come-tarneit-schools-way/>

Thomas Carr College is to enter a new phase in learning with the recent announcement of a \$22 million building program.

Principal Andrew Watson said the Tarneit School, which opened 15 years ago, now had 1170 students.

"We have had quite rapid growth in the past five years and this will give us the ability to increase enrolments," he said.

The building program, to be completed over 10 years, will include a new centre for years 7 and 8, a new performing arts centre, refurbishment and extension of the existing gym and a new VCE centre.

Dr Watson said he hoped construction of the year 7 and 8 centre could begin next year, pending approval from Wyndham City Council.

He said the new buildings would include facilities to recycle rainwater for using in toilets and a permeable zone to allow for natural heating.

RAIL DIN SET TO WORSEN

Wyndham Weekly– 25th October 2011

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/rail-din-set-to-worsen/2333879.aspx>

Noise levels are expected to increase along the rail line between Sunshine and Deer Park due to the Regional Rail Link project.

A Regional Rail Link Authority report predicts average noise level increases of up to five decibels at some locations.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



But the authority is designing the route without barriers due to a lack of government policy and concerns over the fairness of selecting some areas but not others.

"This will be a discernible but not substantial change to existing noise levels," the report found.

"This increase is due to the greater intensification in the number of services as a result of the Geelong services being routed onto this section of the rail corridor."

The Sunshine to Deer Park corridor has two off-peak and 3.5 peak trains each way per hour but is expected to surge to six off-peak and 17 peak trains each way per hour by 2024.

Estimates for noise barrier costs ranged from \$21 million to \$49 million.

The first stage of the \$5.3 billion project includes two new tracks between Moonee Ponds Creek and Sunshine, upgrade works on the rail bridge over Kororoit Creek, a new rail-over-road separation at Robinsons Road in Deer Park, and improvements at Sunshine station.

Victoria has no guidelines for maximum railway noise and vibration impacts, but current noise limits exceed NSW guidelines in numerous locations, including Sunshine, Ardeer and Deer Park.

Transport Minister Terry Mulder said the government was developing a noise policy and would start community consultation early next year.

"The Victorian Government has already acted to provide greater certainty and restore transparency in decision-making around rail projects by releasing a draft framework for noise from future passenger rail investments in Victoria that

articulates four principles for managing and mitigating noise from future passenger rail infrastructure," Mr Mulder said.

Regional Rail Link CEO Corey Hannett said it would respond to any further policy development and instruct contractors accordingly.

TRUGANINA WORKS A TRAFFIC HAZARD

Wyndham Leader— 25th October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/truganina-works-a-traffic-hazard/>

Motorists fear a major traffic accident because of roadworks at the intersection of Sayers and Marquands roads, Truganina.

Wyndham Council is upgrading the busy corner, which is not expected to be completed until next month.

Brett Buttling, 35, was driving in Sayers Rd through a green light at Marquands Rd on Saturday, October 15, just before 11.30am, when a car travelling in the opposite direction made a right turn in front of him into Marquands Rd.

He hit the car, which collided with at least one other vehicle stopped in Marquands Rd.

Mr Buttling said: "The new traffic lights there have room for a red turning arrow to stop cars turning into oncoming traffic, but this isn't working yet.

"I believe if it had been, this collision could have been prevented."

Mr Buttling was taken by ambulance to hospital with suspected spinal injuries. He said scans and other tests fortunately showed no major damage.

Ambulance Victoria said two other men were treated in hospital as a result of the collision.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



Mr Buttling said roadworks made the corner a hazard and that a person at the towing company which took away his car told him they were attending three collisions a week at the intersection.

The council said it was aware of one other collision at the corner this month. It has received complaints about the roadworks.

ON TRAIL OF WAYWARD WYNDHAM RIDERS

Wyndham Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/on-trail-of-wayward-wyndham-riders/>

Police are cracking down on illegal and dangerous motor and trail bike riders in Wyndham.

Inspector Bill Weatherly said information from the public had helped police identify hot-spots for illegal riders, who he said had a reckless disregard for the law, other road users, residents and the environment.

“While we will prosecute offenders for serious or repeated breaches of the law, we are also aiming to inform and educate riders of their obligations, not only on the roads but also in parklands, reserves and wetlands,” he said.

Insp Weatherly said police also wanted to reduce the number of unlicensed and unregistered riders.

DISABILITY SHOVE-OFF AT WERRIBEE PLAZA

Wyndham Leader– 25th October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/disability-shove-off-at-werribee-plaza/>

Disabled shoppers temporarily lost two disability parking bays to online shoppers at Werribee Plaza this month.

Werribee resident Lynette Flowers arrived at the plaza on Saturday, October 15, to find two of a row of eight high-demand disability parking bays near Coles’ entrance being painted over and replaced with bays for Coles’ online shoppers.

The two bays, closest to the entrance, were designated “Click and Collect” points for people picking up grocery orders made online.

Mrs Flowers, who has a chronic pain condition, said she spoke to other disabled shoppers who were all furious at losing two bays.

A man with one leg had to park in a disability bay farther away and walk to Coles, she said.

She and others complained to centre management, Coles and Wyndham Council.

After being contacted by the Leader last Tuesday morning, the plaza said it was reinstating the disability bays and their removal had been a “misunderstanding”.

“It’s really a non-issue; they’re going to be back to normal tomorrow (last Wednesday),” plaza manager Rose Lawson said.

She would not say if it was the centre or Coles’ misunderstanding.

But Coles’ spokesman Jim Cooper said while it had worked with the centre to get bays for its online shoppers, it never intended they replace bays for people with a disability.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



The council said it was investigating removal of the disability bays.

SUN SHINES ON WERRIBEE PARK PICNIC

Wyndham Leader– 24th October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/sun-shines-on-werribee-park-picnic/>

Blue skies replaced storm clouds in time for the Children's Week Picnic at Werribee Park on Sunday.

About 6000 people turned out in sunny weather for the free annual Wyndham Council-funded picnic.

The city was soaked by drenching rain the day before it.

The perfect picnic weather was a relief for the council, which had to cancel last year's picnic due to extreme wet weather.

A highlight of this year's picnic was a toy swap.

There were stage performances, roving characters including a giraffe and giant butterfly, oversized snakes and ladders board game and more.

The picnic has been held annually in Wyndham for more than 20 years.

Meanwhile, the council's annual YouthFest including live music, rides and food for young people aged 12-25 is on November 25, 4-9pm at Hoppers Crossing's newly renovated Youth Resource Centre on Derrimut Rd.

THEIR KIND OF MUSIC KICKS THE FESTIVAL ALONG

Wyndham Leader– 22nd October 2011

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/their-kind-of-music-kicks-the-festival-along/>

Older residents are kicking up their heels at Seniors Festival events in Wyndham.

More than 400 people attended a luncheon and concert including 1950s and '60s music last Wednesday at Hoppers Crossing's Wyndham Leisure and Events Centre.

"It was fantastic to see so many of our seniors having a great time," Cr Bob Fairclough said.

Other senior's events were a multicultural morning tea and cultural dance performances at Werribee last Tuesday, and lunch with AFL legend Tom Hafey and Westbourne Grammar School band performance yesterday at Hoppers Crossing.

Remaining major events - an outing to Lara's Serendip Sanctuary and a Victoria Police Band concert - are sold out.

The Victorian Seniors Festival is held annually to celebrate and acknowledge older people. It includes free and low-cost events.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



ACROSS THE REGION

HOSPITAL NEGLECT

Star News Group– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/319/story/142914.html>

State Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews has slammed the State Government for neglecting hospitals in the West.

Visiting Williamstown Hospital last week with Williamstown MP Wade Noonan, Mr Andrews said Premier Ted Baillieu and Health Minister David Davis had turned their backs on health services across the West.

Mr Andrews said the Premier had promised an extra 100 beds for Victorian hospitals this year, but so far had not delivered a single one.

“It’s appalling that after a year in office, there’s no beds in Williamstown, there’s no beds in Sunshine and there’s no beds at the Western,” Mr Andrews said.

“Part of the problem is that we don’t have a health plan from the State Government. They haven’t told us how many patients they expect to treat, or how many elective surgeries they plan to provide.

“The only plan the State Coalition has to improve services... is to re-announce Labor’s project to provide \$3 million for an extra operating theatre.

“A growing population in Melbourne’s West means more investment is needed and it’s time the Coalition delivered.”

Mr Andrews, who was born at Williamstown Hospital, said the neglect was putting strain on the doctors and nurses working across the West.

He said the Labor Party would have a fully integrated health plan come the 2014 election.

Mr Noonan supported his comments, adding that the State Government was placing a low priority on anything in the West.

“We don’t want health to be a postcode issue where the State Government can get some political bang for its buck,” Mr Noonan said.

“I don’t think people in the community know what the future of the Williamstown Hospital looks like.”

PM TO HOST CABINET TALKS

Star News Group– 25th October 2011

<http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au/star/keilor-taylors-lakes-sydenham/319/story/142912.html>

Residents from Melbourne’s West will have a chance to ask questions and speak their minds to the Prime Minister when she and other influential Labor ministers visit Werribee.

Prime Minister Gillard, Ministers Nicola Roxon, Brendan O’Connor and Bill Shorten, will be at Werribee Primary School on 9 November to hold a Community Cabinet to discuss key local, state and national issues that directly affect people living in the western suburbs.

The Prime Minister said it was a unique opportunity for residents to voice their concerns over current issues.

“This event will provide Western Melbourne residents with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues with a number of Federal Ministers,” Ms Gillard said.

“This is democracy in action and I’m happy that I have been able to bring this important event to the West”.

LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

28th October 2011



As part of the Community Cabinet, Ministers will also hold one-on-one meetings with local residents on a range of issues. To attend the meeting residents need to register by visiting www.pm.gov.au/community-cabinet.

LeadWest Ltd PO Box 2382 FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011 Tel: +61 3 9317 5794 Fax: +61 3 9317 0721



LeadWest is on Twitter as LeadWestLtd



LeadWest is on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/LeadWest/181767638522310>



LeadWest is on LinkedIn at

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/1917641?trk=tyah>