

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



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### BRIMBANK

#### **MAY TOKE: FOR LIFE IT'S THE BEST WAY TO LEARN**

*Brimbank Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/may-toke-for-life-its-the-best-way-to-learn/2216407.aspx>

Burmese refugee May Toke knows the value of education.

During her 20 years in a camp in neighbouring Thailand, the Sunshine resident was lucky enough to have her learning sponsored.

On arriving in Australia six years ago, she took the first steps towards helping others, studying community development and volunteering with Western Young People's Independent Network.

Ms Toke now works with The Smith Family in Sunshine, helping with the Learning for Life program, which sponsors thousands of disadvantaged children Australia-wide, including about 600 in Brimbank.

But with donations for the organisation's winter appeal being well short of the national target, residents are urged to give so workers like Ms Toke can continue to help those in need.

Ms Toke said the local program included financial support for children and their families to help with school essentials such as books, uniforms and excursions. "I look after about 300 participants. My role is to support families if they need information or referrals."

Students are supported for as long as they continue their learning, from primary school through to high school and even into tertiary education. Feedback from

those who have been helped is one of the most rewarding aspects of Ms Toke's role .

"The families are really appreciative. One woman has had three children finish school, and she wrote to say that without our support and the sponsor's support they wouldn't have got to where they are today.

"Education is the key to coming out of poverty and disadvantage. This is not a handout, it is helping families with the learning that will help them in the long run."

Ms Toke has been working with The Smith Family for a year and hopes to continue for some time yet. She also has a long-term dream of returning to Thailand or Burma to help people there. "I want to make the most of this opportunity I have in Australia, but I want to be able to share my education and make a difference back there as well."

The Smith Family is still accepting donations. With less than a week to go it was well short of its \$4million target. Chief executive Dr Lisa O'Brien said the shortfall left thousands of children at risk of falling through the cracks.

#### **SLOW DOWN, PLEADS ST ALBANS FAMILY**

*Brimbank Leader – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/slow-down-pleads-st-albans-family-fbready/>

A St Albans mother is pleading for motorists to slow down around schools after her son was swiped by a car while walking home.

Eight-year-old Ryan Thomas hesitated while crossing Stradbroke Drive, near the corner of Main Rd East, while walking home from St Albans Heights with his older brother Lachlan, 9, late last month.

His mother, Kelly, said Ryan saw a bus coming and stopped, while his brother continued.

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Ms Thomas said her son then crossed behind the bus and was swiped by an oncoming car. Ryan, who has Asperger's syndrome, suffered severe bruising and a suspected fracture, and now has a limp and needs crutches.

Ms Thomas said her two young sons, who walk the 15-minute journey home daily, had been left "traumatised" by the incident.

"It's every mother's nightmare," she said. "He thinks he is safe in a school zone and that's how he should feel."

The speed limit along the road is 50km/h except for the areas in front of the school, where the 40km/h school speed zone applies.

Brimbank highway patrol's Sgt Rod Stein said school speed zones were always enforced.

"They are there for a reason, to protect young children," he said.

"Motorists really need to take extra care around schools because putting a young child's life at risk is just not worth it."

Ms Thomas is encouraging the council to install measures to slow motorists down and has written to local MPs. Other schools nearby include St Albans Primary School and secondary college.

Brimbank Council infrastructure and environment general manager Paul Younis said many factors were taken into consideration when deciding if a street needed speed cushions or humps.

"The normal process the council undertakes to see if speed humps should be installed in any street involves a traffic survey to determine the traffic volume and speeds," Mr Younis said. "We also investigate crash history, which is based on police reported injury crashes."

He said the council installed a modified T-intersection treatment at the intersection of Stradbroke Drive and Clacton St - south of the school - to deter speeders but no other works were planned.

### **ST ALBANS CENTRE IS SAFE FROM ASBESTOS**

*Brimbank Leader – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/st-albans-centre-is-safe-from-asbestos-fbready/>

Brimbank Council is reassuring residents the St Albans Leisure Centre is safe after an asbestos scare closed its creche.

The creche, which provides 15 childcare places for centre clients, was closed on June 17 after works being carried out in an area where the council knew asbestos was present were deemed unsafe.

The works included replacing floor coverings and installing a new kitchen.

The council's community wellbeing general manager Kelly Grigsby said works were immediately halted after the council, which maintains an asbestos register, was informed that its policies had not been followed.

"The council was made aware that its policies in respect of these works may not have been as closely observed as council requires," she said.

"Upon discovering this, council immediately took the precautionary steps of closing the creche and notifying WorkSafe."

WorkSafe inspected the centre and cleared it as being safe.

A hygienist also conducted two tests which found no contamination.

"Those who use the leisure centre can be assured that it is, and has at all times, been safe," Ms Grigsby said.

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But Australian Services Union representative Russell McGregor said staff still had concerns.

Mr McGregor met three staff members on Thursday, and said the ASU would seek clarification with the council on certain issues.

"They want to be sure they have not been exposed to any sort of dangerous dust particles," he said.

The creche is set to re-open this week.

### **POLICE HURT IN ALBION BRAWL**

*Brimbank Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/police-hurt-in-albion-brawl/>

Police have dismissed talk that violence in Albion overnight was ethnically driven.

Police were attacked while trying to break up brawling youths outside a Carrington Drive function centre about 10pm last night.

Acting Inspector Chris Gilbert told Radio 3AW this morning that one member was injured during the brawls, and two people were arrested and will face charges over crimes unrelated to the violence.

He said about 16 officers attended the area after reports of fights breaking out among up to 300 patrons.

While officers were patrolling the surrounding streets they came across a brawl at the intersection of Ballarat Rd and Wesley St.

Insp Gilbert said police were pelted with rocks as they used capsicum spray in the arrest of a 21-year-old man involved in the fight.

He said a constable from Sunshine police station was treated by paramedics at the scene for minor injuries, including bruising to his arms and legs.

"It's very untidy, we don't like to see our members getting injured," Insp Gilbert said.

"No-one likes to see parties getting out of control in their local neighbourhood...It's one of the challenges we face with young people and violence and alcohol."

Insp Gilbert said Brimbank was a multicultural area, and the youths involved in last night's violence were "just young Australian men and girls".

Police arrested three men and a 16-year-old boy after the brawl. Two of the men, a 21-year-old from Melton and an 18-year-old from Caroline Springs were later released without charge.

The other teens are due to face court this morning charged over a series of robberies along the Sydenham railway line.

Insp Gilbert said the teenagers were facing up to 17 counts of robbery and armed robbery over attacks on people.

### **ST ALBANS' FUTURE UNDER THE MICROSCOPE**

*Brimbank Weekly – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/st-albans-future-under-the-microscope/2216405.aspx>

Plans have been hatched to better connect residents with a growing St Albans centre.

The St Albans Activity Centre Structure Plan and St Albans District Connections Strategy will help Brimbank Council guide the development of St Albans and surrounding district.

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The council wants people to move away from driving - instead walking, cycling and using public transport to connect with shops, schools, parks and community facilities.

It hopes to create a safer and more accessible area that will attract visitors to use local businesses and amenities.

Part of the strategy includes increased density in the activity centre to accommodate growth.

St Albans Business Association president Sebastian Agricola said any strategy to bring more people into St Albans should be encouraged.

"The St Albans shopping strip has over 200 small businesses - it is the biggest employer in the area.

"We have to compete with the major shopping centres, which have many millions of dollars to spend on marketing.

"So we need to make St Albans more attractive not only for residents but also for other people."

Mr Agricola said having a railway station in the centre of St Albans opened up access for those living near the line.

However, he said more could be done to improve district bus services.

The council adopted the draft strategy during last month's ordinary meeting.

It incorporates feedback from consultation with local groups, surveys, interviews, workshops and discussions with government agencies.

Once finalised they will guide the council's spending, response to development proposals, and strategic planning policies.

Brimbank administrator Meredith Sussex said the plans outlined the council's short, medium and long-term goals.

"I encourage community members to read the documents and provide comment back to the council."

Comments on the drafts must be submitted by July 22. The strategy can be viewed on the council website.

### **ST ALBANS HOME TO THE STATE'S HIGHEST NUMBER OF HOONS**

*Brimbank Weekly – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/st-albans-home-to-the-states-highest-number-of-hoons/2216411.aspx>

St Albans has retained its dubious crown as Victoria's hoon capital.

The suburb is home to the state's highest number of hoon offenders, recording 181 over the past five years to pip Werribee, Hoppers Crossing, Mill Park and Craigieburn.

Brimbank had the second-highest number of offences, behind only Hume. Police have detected 744 hoon offences in Brimbank since 2006 - 194 in 2010 and 124 already this year.

The figures were released in conjunction with tough new laws that came into force on Friday.

Police now have the power to immediately impound a vehicle for 30 days on a first offence.

Brimbank's Sergeant Rod Stein said the previous 48-hour impoundment didn't send a strong enough message.

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"From a police point of view and a road safety point of view, it didn't deter people."

Repeat offenders risk losing their vehicle for three months or permanently. The period for taking prior offences into account has been increased from three years to six years.

The offences now include repeat drink, drug and unlicensed driving, and carrying too many people.

Harsher penalties will apply to high-risk behaviour, such as travelling over the speed limit by 70km/h.

Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe said the changes were tough for a good reason.

"Police are sick of it, the community is sick of it."

Operations will focus on hoon behaviour on the streets and in industrial estates such as Keilor Park.

### **BRIMBANK HOONS UNDER PUMP**

*Brimbank Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/brimbank-hoons-under-pump-fbready/>

Tough new laws will take Brimbank hoons off the road for longer.

The legislation, introduced on Friday, comes days after a female P-plater, 20, from Taylors Lakes lost her license for speeding at 152km/h in an 80km/h zone along the Calder Freeway in Keilor.

The woman, facing almost \$1200 in fines, was driving her mother's car, which, under the previous legislation, was impounded for 48 hours.

But under new laws, first offenders will have their vehicle immediately impounded for 30 days, with repeat offenders to face an additional court-imposed impoundment of at least 45 days and up to three months, or risk losing their vehicle completely.

Brimbank, a hotspot for hoon drivers, was named the second-worst municipality in the state for hoon offences, with St Albans the worst. Brimbank's top traffic cop Sgt Rod Stein was confident the new laws would help to deter driving offences.

"It's the first major overhaul since 2006, and there have been some really drastic changes," he said.

New hoon offences include repeat drink driving (in excess of 0.10BAC), repeat drug-driving, repeat unlicensed and disqualified driving and overloading a vehicle with passengers.

"We make no bones about it," Sgt Stein said. "If you misbehave on the road, we will take you off it."

Since hoon laws were introduced in 2006, police have impounded more than 14,500 vehicles.

Excessive speed is the most common offence.

### **SUNSHINE'S FUNDING CUT FURY**

*Brimbank Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://brimbank-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/funding-cut-fury-sunshines-funding-cut-fury-fbready/>

Parents and children took to the steps of Parliament last week to protest childcare funding cuts.

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The small crowd demanded the State Government continue funding for the Take-a-Break occasional childcare program, which subsidises 9000 families, many in Brimbank.

Sunshine's Duke Street Community House has offered occasional childcare for 18 years.

It has received \$17,000 to \$19,000 each year from the federal and state governments combined, enabling it to run four childcare sessions weekly, each with 15 places.

Similar programs have also been set up in Cairnlea, St Albans and Sydenham.

Almost 1000 people have signed an online petition, protesting the cuts, and more than 900 have joined a Facebook page.

Duke St manager Bronwen Merrigan said without funding, the program would end and three people would lose their jobs.

"This service is already running at a loss for the good of the community and, without this funding, it will be impossible," she said.

Children and Early Childhood Development Minister Wendy Lovell announced the State Government would stop funding at the end of the year.

"We do not have enough money to pay the extra \$1.1 million," she said.

Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Association executive Angela Savage said of the \$2 million funding, the Federal Government previously covered 70 per cent, with the state making up the shortfall.

She said the Federal Government was now only funding \$1.1 million.

## MARIBRYNONG

### **BODY FOUND IN MARIBRYNONG RIVER**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/body-found-in-maribyrnong-river/>

Police are investigating the death of a man who's body was found in the Maribyrnong River yesterday.

The body was spotted in the river about 2pm yesterday, and was recovered from the water about 3pm at the bridge pontoon to the south of Raleigh Rd.

Police cordoned off the area and traffic was crawled on Raleigh Rd as drivers craned to see and the usual river-side runners, walkers and cyclists were diverted.

Maribyrnong Leader has established the young man was of African descent.

Police have not yet said whether the death is suspicious and have not established the man's identity.

### **STUCK TRUCK STOPS TRAFFIC IN FOOTSCRAY**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/stuck-truck-stops-traffic-in-footscray/>

A stuck container truck caused chaos Footscray earlier today.

The container truck became wedged under a rail bridge in Napier St after the truck driver misjudged his run and knocked a container from the back of his truck.

The road was closed for more than an hour while emergency crews waited for heavy haulage to lift the container off the road.

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VicRoads spokesman Luke Saxby said traffic was detoured through the area and delays affected the replacement bus service in place for the completion of the regional rail link.

The truck was moved and the road re-opened about 1.45pm.

### **MORE METRO TRAINS RUNNING ON TIME**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/more-metro-trains-running-on-time/>

Metro trains exceeded punctuality targets last month, new figures revealed.

Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder described the public transport provider's June performance results as "heartening".

With a target of 88 per cent punctuality set by the State Government, Metro exceeded those expectations by 0.2 per cent.

Cancellations were also down, with 98.7 per cent of services being delivered during the month of June, exceeding the 98 per cent target.

Metro chief executive Andrew Lezala said the punctuality figure was up 6 per cent from May and was the result of a new timetable.

"We've been saying all along that we needed to rewrite the timetable to enable us to simplify train running and improve our reliability," Mr Lezala said.

"We'll continue our work to improve the reliability of the network, but it's pleasing to see the results of this work so far."

Mr Mulder said the June 2011 results were a big improvement on June 2010 results, with 12 of the 16 Metro lines recording an improvement on the previous year.

The big winners were Frankston commuters, with 87.2 per cent of trains running on time in June 2011, compared to just 65.5 per cent in June 2010.

### **RAIL STAFF THREATEN LABOR MP HANDING OUT LEAFLETS**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/rail-staff-threaten-labor-mp-handing-out-leaflets-20110706-1h2uj.html>

Metro Trains staff threatened to report a Labor MP to police unless she stopped handing out leaflets criticising the Baillieu government's two-week shutdown of the Sydenham line.

Natalie Hutchins, the member for Keilor, yesterday went to Albion station in Sunshine to distribute a petition.

It condemned the government's decision to close the line for two weeks for works on the Regional Rail Link project. This work could have been done at night and on weekends, it said.

Ms Hutchins said that, after she had handed out leaflets, an "aggressive" Metro staff member instructed her to leave.

Under the 2005 Transport Conduct Regulations, distributing any leaflet on a suburban railway station without Metro's permission is banned.

Those doing so face a \$584.10 fine.

However, Ms Hutchins was on the street next to the station.

"I told them to leave me alone, because we were not on station property," she said.

But Metro staff assured her the rail operator had leased the area as part of the two-week shutdown.

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Ms Hutchins said a Metro staff member then used a microphone, which was being used for crowd control, to instruct passengers not to take her leaflets.

Metro spokeswoman Geraldine Mitchell said no announcement was made not to take brochures.

Ms Mitchell also said Ms Hutchins had refused to leave the area despite being warned several times she was breaching regulations.

She was finally warned that police would be called, Ms Mitchell said, and she "eventually left of her own accord".

Labor's public transport spokeswoman, Fiona Richardson, said a "worrying new culture" was developing in Victoria.

But Transport Minister Terry Mulder said Ms Richardson "needs to get a history lesson from her fellow stunt-pulling cronies. The laws to stop people thrusting political flyers at commuters on stations are dated 2005, when Labor was in government."

Last week, Labor accused Liberal MP Michael Gidley of confronting staff handing out flyers outside Parliament station. Mr Gidley said he did not raise his voice or act inappropriately.

### **REGIONAL RAIL LINK: BUSES LENGTHEN WORKDAY**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/regional-rail-link-buses-lengthen-workday/2217770.aspx>

Shutting the Sydenham line to start work on the Regional Rail Link has caused confusion for commuters and residents.

The Sydenham line will be closed until Monday, July 18, for preparatory works and maintenance.

Trains between Albion and Footscray have been replaced by buses. An express bus from Albion and Sunshine stations takes passengers to Flemington racecourse where they can board trains to the city.

Tottenham resident Dustin Gilchrist said the bus diversion added more than an hour each way on his trip to Upfield for work. He said he would normally leave home at 7am but now left at 5.30am.

Residents told the Weekly that work had been carried out over Saturday night and into Sunday morning, but many had not been notified beforehand.

Metro Trains, responsible for the work, apologised to resident Nick Fahey in an email for the "delay in providing this notification". It said an "administrative error" meant some locations were not notified of the works. They have since been notified.

Regional Rail Link Authority CEO Corey Hannett said: "Closing the lines for two weeks now enables work to be completed that would otherwise have to happen over numerous weekend or overnight occupations.

"Traditionally, school holidays are a quieter time on the rail network, so carrying out works during the July school holidays helps to minimise the impact on rail passengers. It also frees up the buses needed to continue transporting people around the network.

"We acknowledge the disruption that the temporary closure of the Sydenham, Ballarat and Bendigo lines have caused and have made every effort to mitigate this by providing timely and accurate information to commuters and the community.

"With regard to the works themselves, the Regional Rail Link project team will continue to keep residents informed of localised site investigations and preparatory works with letterbox drops and doorknocks where required."

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### **FLAG-RAISING ROW MARS INDIGENOUS RELATIONS**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/flagraising-row-mars-indigenous-relations/2217975.aspx>

Relations between Maribyrnong Council and the Gathering Place are said to be at an all-time low after a disagreement over the NAIDOC flag-raising ceremony.

A conflict over the indigenous personnel selected to be involved in the ceremony escalated in the lead-up to NAIDOC Week, resulting in a no-show by Gathering Place chief executive Colleen Marion on Monday.

“Negotiations fell down and our community didn’t go,” Mrs Marion said.

“We haven’t agreed with some of the decisions on the flag-raising ceremony and we’ve had a number of differences with the council, so we weren’t comfortable in turning up.”

Mrs Marion said relations with the council had deteriorated to the point where she no longer felt comfortable delivering a planned keynote address at the flag-raising ceremony.

“We wanted the youth to raise the flag, get the youth to take the lead during the ceremony, but that wasn’t going to happen. Unfortunately it was the indigenous youth committee that missed out.”

Maribyrnong Council corporate services general manager Stephen Wall said an invitation was extended to the Gathering Place to be part of the flag-raising ceremony, but it was declined.

“There were many indigenous people from the City of Maribyrnong representing their community at the event, and local elders raised the flags.

“Maribyrnong Council is committed to working with all members of our indigenous community on future events.”

Mrs Marion and Gathering Place representatives attended Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley and Wyndham flag-raising ceremonies.

“We had a great day with the other councils,” she said. “They were very inclusive and eager to be involved with our community.”

### **MARIBYRNONG PAY-TO-PARK SPACES TO GROW BY THE METER**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/maribyrnong-paytopark-spaces-to-grow-by-the-meter/2217766.aspx>

Maribyrnong Council is planning to more than double the amount of paid parking in central Footscray.

The council plans to install 69 multi-bay parking machines that will expand paid parking by 700 car park spaces.

There are already 42 machines in central Footscray that cover 650 car park spaces.

The council removed its controversial parking cameras this year after months of community outcry and accusations they were installed without community input.

In contrast, the council is calling for community feedback before the latest batch of parking machines is installed, and its website has reams of information supporting its case.

The council also wants feedback on time limits on paid parking and the location of taxi ranks, loading zones, disabled parking bays and 15-minute parking spaces.

The council argues that "pay parking increases turnover as motorists tend to park within their allocated times". It adds: "This is a fairer system as more short-term

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parking is available, which decreases time spent looking for a car space. Road safety improves with less cars on the road looking for parking or double parking."

The council charges \$1.10 per hour for parking during the day.

Footscray Traders Association president Grant Miles said paid parking was an "unfortunate reality" for retail centres, but he questioned why it was going ahead only at Footscray.

"There's no legitimate reason why paid parking should be put into Footscray and not Yarraville and Seddon. It's just as difficult getting a car park there," he said.

"If they're going to collect the money in Footscray it should be spent in Footscray."

Mr Miles questioned the validity of the council's claims that paid parking improved traffic flow and parking turnover.

### **YOUTH WORKER STABBED, PUNCHED**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/youth-worker-stabbed-punched/2217769.aspx>

A Maribyrnong youth worker who campaigned against knives has been stabbed twice and punched up to 80 times in the face while a knife was held to his neck.

Daniel, who works with Les Twentyman's 20th Man Fund, had been enjoying the view across the water from the Esplanade in Altona about 6.30pm on Saturday.

Mr Twentyman said the 29-year-old was held down by five Islanders wearing hoodies.

"He was held down with a knife to his throat - he's got all these cuts on his neck - and he was bashed, he reckons, about 80 times before being stabbed twice in the

stomach. It was a cowardly attack ... five onto one with weapons. He looks like he's been through a meat grinder."

Mr Twentyman said it was only due to Daniel's fitness as a boxer that he managed to get up and drive himself to hospital in Werribee.

Altona Meadows man Steve Morgan, whose son was stabbed several times at Altona Pier late in 2009, said police had not done enough to tackle violence in the area.

### **REGIONAL RAIL LINK: SENIORS SHOCKED AT 'RAILROADING'**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/regional-rail-link-seniors-shocked-at-railroading/2217768.aspx>

Footscray seniors groups have until the end of next month to move out of their Buckley Street building before it is demolished as part of the \$5billion Regional Rail Link project.

The council-owned building will make way for new rail tracks.

Maribyrnong Council says the former Maribyrnong-Maidstone RSL building at Raleigh Road will be used as a temporary home for the groups until a permanent home is found.

Footscray Senior Citizens Club president Ellen Fleming said the compulsory move was a shock.

"Change is tough, but we're accepting it. Had we been approached 12 months ago and weaned into it ... that would have been much better.

"We've already lost a couple of members who moved from Buckley Street when their homes were acquired."

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The council says the former RSL building will be refurbished to cater for various senior citizen groups, including elderly people with migrant background. Users will be bussed to the site if they need transport.

The Maribyrnong-Maidstone RSL occupied the council-owned building until April last year when the unit was closed. Its 120 members joined neighbouring RSLs, including Flemington/Kensington and Footscray.

Former Maribyrnong-Maidstone RSL president Keith Walsh said there had been constant issues with maintenance.

"The council didn't maintain the war memorial or cut the grass, the roof leaked and the ceiling was starting to collapse. It didn't honour the fallen. Hopefully, with the senior citizens in there, the building will be maintained as it should be."

The Regional Rail Link Authority did not respond before deadline to a question about financial aid for the relocation.

### **JOBLESS RATE EASES, BUT WEST STILL LAGGING**

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/jobless-rate-eases-but-west-still-lagging/2217798.aspx>

Unemployment in Melbourne's west is falling but is higher than state and Melbourne levels, leading to calls for investment in skills programs.

Employment data for the December 2010 quarter shows the number of people out of work and those receiving Centrelink payments to be declining since the highs of 2009.

Maribyrnong unemployment fell from 8.8per cent in December 2009 to 6.4per cent a year later. In Brimbank, the fall was from 9.3per cent to 7.3per cent and in Hobsons Bay from 6.4per cent to 4.9per cent.

But the west is still lagging behind. In December last year, unemployment fell to 5.1per cent in Melbourne and 5.4per cent for the state, compared with 5.7 per cent for both a year earlier.

Dr Bruce Rasmussen, of Victoria University's Centre for Strategic Economic Development, said the rapid recovery from 2009 was starting to slow and a focus on new skills for high-growth or white-collar jobs was needed.

"Skilling people in the west helps them transform from being blue and into valuable white-collar [jobs] so they can participate more in the knowledge economy," he said.

Williamstown MP Wade Noonan called on the state government to fund the Skilling the West program to help people move out of low-growth jobs such as transport and manufacturing — which alone employ more than 34,000 people.

The government has this year pledged close to \$12million for similar programs in Geelong and the La Trobe Valley.

Mr Noonan said the long-term trend of people in the west facing higher unemployment rates than other parts of Melbourne was not likely to be reversed without assistance to improve skills among existing workers and the unemployed.

"With the decline in the manufacturing sector, residents in Melbourne's west will increasingly rely on growing industries such as transport and logistics, retail, accommodation and food services, education and training, health care and social assistance to provide employment.

"We can't just standby and watch this decline without taking some action."

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James Martin, spokesman for Higher Education and Skills Minister Peter Hall, said an extra \$40million would be spent over the next four years on increasing the number of fee-exempt training places for people aged over 20.

He said students between 15 and 24 on health care cards were now eligible for concessions on TAFE fees.

As well, the government had commissioned a review of vocational education and training fees and funding to expand access to training for people experiencing financial hardship.

### STARS BY NATURE

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/stars-by-nature/2217765.aspx>

An all-girls indigenous soccer team featuring talent from the west is gearing up for the second indigenous football festival in Alice Springs.

The Marngrook Meenteel (Victoria) team, known as the Football Stars, have travelled to Alice Springs for the three-day festival which began today and features 12 teams for players aged 13-15.

The 'Stars' are from Geelong, Werribee, Shepparton, Doveton and Sunshine.

They have strong links to the western suburbs' indigenous community through ties with the Maribyrnong-based Western Region Gathering Place.

Football Federation Victoria game development manager Salvatore Carmusciano said indigenous participation in soccer had risen by 45per cent in Victoria in the past 12 months.

### JOS VAN HULSEN: ART SHOW GETS INTO THE ZONE

*Maribyrnong Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.maribyrnongweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/jos-van-hulsen-art-show-gets-into-the-zone/2217747.aspx>

When West Footscray artist Jos van Hulsen was a Ballarat teenager in the late 1970s, the nearest skate park was a one-hour train trip away at Melton.

When he arrived from the Netherlands in 1978, skateboarding was non-existent outside small groups of devotees.

"The first thing I bought when I arrived was a skateboard," van Hulsen says.

These days skate parks and skate culture proliferate, influencing everything from fashion to music, and the best boarders are multimillion-dollar superstars with celebrity status.

Yet for van Hulsen and his mates who keep in touch via the web and meet at skate parks and bowls venues across the city, skateboarding has always been about the moment.

"When you are boarding, if you don't focus or you're not totally into it, you will injure yourself," he says.

He equates the feeling of being in the zone to when he's busy in his workshop designing and sculpting his latest creation - a meeting of physical skill and artistic expression.

"If you focus too hard on one element, that's when it all goes wrong. This is how it is with skating, an intense but addictive place."

Van Hulsen runs Post Industrial Design in West Footscray with Mary Long, and they will host the exhibition SLAMin as part of the 2011 State of Design Festival.

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This year's festival theme is 'Design that Moves'. Long says they wanted to broaden the theme beyond the obvious and explore the transient nature of what is often seen as an underground or alternative lifestyle.

"It's more comfortable on the fringes of society, and skaters are always exploring the urban landscape to get the next experience."

The exhibits range from street and body art to photography and paintings.

SLAMin, at 638 Barkly Street, West Footscray, runs from July 22-31. Details: [www.stateofdesign.com.au](http://www.stateofdesign.com.au)

### **SALVOS' HOME SWEET HOME IN FOOTSCRAY**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/salvos-home-sweet-home-in-footscray-fbready/>

The Salvation Army has ensured some disadvantaged people will be able to live out their final years in a homely environment.

Maribyrnong Leader had an exclusive tour of the \$22 million 120-bed aged-care centre, in Buckley St, Footscray, ahead of the finishing touches being applied before the opening in October.

The vast centre, which was once at risk of being acquired for the Regional Rail Link, will cater to both male and female low-level-care elderly patients, who have a background of social and economic disadvantage.

A secure dementia unit will care for 22 residents. And landscaped gardens, activity areas, a cafe and a hairdressing salon will keep residents occupied.

Salvation Army aged-care group manager Richard Flanagan, who has seen the building grow from an idea through planning to its realisation, said the vision had been to create an environment like a home.

"There's all the latest equipment, bright and cheerful paints and fabrics, and plasma televisions in every room

"We want to give (our) people what other people have," he said.

The building, with its vaulted ceilings, cornices and finishings, pays homage to the former Footscray swimming pool facade, which remains on the street front.

Glass etchings highlight the site's former use. And Mr Flanagan laughs when he explains how he requested the pool's exit door sign - "We hope to see you again soon" - be left in place. Salvation Army Adult Services general manager Jane Barnes said up to 200 staff would work at the home. Meals and laundry will initially be contracted out, but the plan is to have everything handled on site.

Ms Barnes said the 45 residents of the soon-to-be closed James Barker House on Ryan St would be the first to move in in late October. The centre would operate at half-capacity until more residents arrived.

"We create a waiting list from Commonwealth agencies and our other operations, and I don't think it'll take long to fill," she said.

The project was entirely funded from a bequest and will be run on a combination of Commonwealth funding and donations.

### **LEAVING THE FOOTSCRAY NEIGHBOURHOOD**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/leaving-the-footscray-neighbourhood/>

Footscray is on the move, with many residents and businesses preparing to relocate to make way for the Regional Rail Link.

Among them at the end of August will be the Footscray Senior Citizens Centre, relocating to the former RSL building in Raleigh Rd, Maribyrnong.

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The refurbished building will be an interim solution until the council can find a new site in Footscray or build a new centre. All programs will continue.

FSCC president Ellen Fleming said there were mixed feelings about the move.

"It's hard to change, but once we're there, I hope we don't lose any members - a change is as good as a holiday, as they say," she said.

"Hopefully, we're going to get a little bit spoilt with the refurbishment."

Ms Fleming said most members who lived on Buckley St and whose homes were being acquired had already moved on.

Beattie Doyg, 91, said the RSL building would be too far for her to drive to, but would be like a homecoming, having socialised there in years gone by.

The centre will celebrate a "last supper" for the 83 members before the move.

Meanwhile, Burnham Real Estate also celebrated an end to more than 100 years at its Irving St office last week.

Demolition began on Friday, hours after clients, staff and friends of the business wrapped up a relocation party.

The new office is in Barkly St, opposite Gilmore Girls College.

Train operator Metro has stirred anger by starting sleeper replacement work between Footscray and Watergardens without consulting nearby residents.

### **FOOTSCRAY PARKING PLAN ANGER**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/footscray-parking-plan-anger-fbready/>

A proposal to more than double the amount of paid parking in Footscray has angered residents and traders still recovering from the recently removed parking cameras.

The changes proposed by Maribyrnong Council, stretching metre parking from Geelong Rd to Moore St, are out for public comment at the moment.

Mayor Sarah Carter said paid parking was a fairer and safer system, which reduced the time drivers spent looking for a space.

"Our research shows pay parking increases carpark turnover as motorists tend to park within their allocated times," she said. "Studies have shown a greater availability of parking can enhance retail activity."

But Footscray Traders' Association president Grant Miles said traders wanted a level playing field with Highpoint, Yarraville and Seddon, where parking is free.

"The money collected here should be spent in Footscray, but (council) said it's nearly impossible to separate," he said.

Mr Miles said the bigger issue was the declining number of overall parking spaces in Footscray.

"Footscray Market has applied to reduce the number of parking bays in their redevelopment, we've lost 20 on Leeds St, and 200-250 will go for Regional Rail Link."

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Aroma bread and cakes owner Huey Phung said he had sold his businesses after profits dropped more than 30 per cent because of the parking cameras. He said he knew of neighbouring businesses in Hopkins St which had also sold up.

"People are still staying away and Sunshine is so busy and Highpoint so competitive," he said.

But Raleigh St resident of two years Felipe Dominguce said he and his housemates struggled to find parking every day and if council provided residents permits, he would welcome parking metres on the street.

"Normally I have to park really far away, it's a nightmare," he said.

As well as seeking comment on installing additional parking meters, the council is also seeking comment on time limits for paid parking bays, and on the location of taxi ranks, loading zones, parking bays for the disabled and 15-minute parking.

### **PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES IN MARIBYRNONG**

*Maribyrnong Leader – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011*

<http://maribyrnong-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/pushing-the-boundaries-in-maribyrnong/>

Students at Rosamond School can have a ball, thanks to opportunities for after-school funds for accessible sporting opportunities.

Maribyrnong Council has provided a football kit for the interschool team and organised the Access All Abilities Lawn Bowling Program.

Assistant principal and football coach Rob Klemm said sport was a great way to make a connection, but it was only one of the ways the school supports students.

The school caters for 5-18-year-olds with a mild intellectual disability.

"The major benefits of sport are developing confidence, socialisation and sportsmanship," he said.

"A lot of young guys really develop their self-esteem.

"There's also a basketball team that plays in a Friday night competition for people with disabilities, which is really successful." Mr Klemm said budding stars had several avenues for advancement within the AFL, thanks to a partnership with Williamstown Seagulls - a team for people with disabilities.

Several students will also try out for the state team and City vs Country match in the coming month.

## MELTON

### **GOOD MOVE ... MELTON ONE OF THE CITY'S HOTTEST SPOTS**

*Melton Leader – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/good-move-melton-one-of-the-citys-hottest-spots/>

Melton Shire has been named as one of Australia's 16 property hot spots.

In the July edition of Australian Property Investor, Melton was one of four Victorian local government areas to make the top 16. The other three were Wyndham, Cardinia and Whittlesea.

Melton's population - projected to reach 225,000 by 2031 - grew by 8 per cent in 2009-10.

The magazine says booming Melton Shire is set to expand further with plans for a billion-dollar residential community to be developed on the banks of the Werribee River.

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"Melton's recent growth is again driven by home-buyers seeking cheaper priced housing in new estate subdivisions," said Robert Larocca, from the Real Estate Institute of Victoria.

Mr Larocca said Caroline Springs, which is now home to 14,000 people, was one of Melbourne's top performing suburbs.

In terms of median price growth for the March quarter and over the year to March 2011, house prices in Caroline Springs rose by 7.1 per cent and 16.1 per cent respectively.

Magazine editor Eynas Brodie said: "Population growth usually equates to an increase in demand for housing, which in turn likely pushes up property values, especially if the demand is greater than the available supply."

### **TOOLERN ESTATE SET TO BE RENAMED BY MELTON COUNCIL**

*Melton Leader –6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/toolern-estate-set-to-be-renamed-by-melton-council/>

Early pioneers and settlers of Melton are among the favourite names under consideration as a future name for Toolern.

The Toolern development, which will be home to 50,000 residents, will soon lose its working title and will be renamed by Melton Council.

Some possible historical names associated with Melton include Exford, Mowbray, Staughton, Djerriwarrh, and Western Plains.

Several of these names were shortlisted for public consultation when a possible name and status change was mooted for the shire in September last year.

Melton Mayor Justin Mammarella said he was in discussions with Toolern land developer Delfin about a future choice of name for the suburb. "Toolern was only

ever intended to be a working name for the suburb," he said. "It was always envisaged to have its own name once it was developed."

Cr Mammarella said he would like the name to represent Melton's past.

"Personally, I would like to see Toolern named after some of Melton's early pioneers," he said.

"Once we have finalised our discussions with Delfin, I hope to put out some suggested names for community consultation."

The Toolern name has previously been criticised for its similarity to the Melton Shire suburb of Toolern Vale, the Toolern Downs estate and Toolern Creek. The 20,000-home development is expected to be divided into up to eight yet-to-be-named smaller suburbs. It has a comparable land size to the present Melton township, which has nine suburbs.

Meanwhile, Cr Mammarella said Taylors Hill West could still be named after winter Olympic gold medallist and shire ambassador Lydia Lassila.

### **CHELSEA HARTMANN: MANDATORY RATING DOES POWER OF GOOD**

*Melton Weekly –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/chelsea-hartmann-mandatory-rating-does-power-of-good/2216648.aspx>

Chelsea Hartmann has enjoyed a noticeable decrease in her power bills since moving into a home with a six-star energy rating.

In order to comply with new regulations which came into effect last month, her Maddingley home is equipped with solar hot water and dual flush toilets. The back of her property also faces north.

"I've noticed my house keeps the temperature better because it doesn't drop below 15 degrees," she said.

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Ms Hartmann said her previous house was always cold.

She believes the hot water panels are helping the most. As well as never waking up to a cold house, she finds she doesn't return to an overheated home as she did previously.

Melton builder Darren Pollock said that all homes could achieve a six-star rating, even if the back of the property faced the wrong way. "The main features we focus on are the heat gain and heat loss, trying to minimise the two, and this helps to cut down the use of a heater and cooler and on omissions.

"We increase insulation with door and window seals and seals on exhaust fans, this all helps.

"Years ago we didn't have to put installation in the walls but now it has to be made dense and sealing all the fans and doors is compulsory."

New legislation means all new homes, renovations, alterations and additions must achieve a six-star energy rating.

According to the Building Commission, new homes that achieve the rating will use 24per cent less energy through heating and cooling compared to five-star homes. It recommends that when building, people ask for design options that go beyond minimum regulatory requirements because it cut costs over the long-term.

For more details on the new regulations, call the Building Commission on 1300815127.

### **TIMING MARS MELTON RATES SOLUTION**

*Melton Weekly –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/timing-mars-melton-rates-solution/2216641.aspx>

Fewer rural properties will be subjected to a big rate increase this financial year, with Melton Council adopting a revised budget.

But several residents who had earlier made submissions objecting to a 175per cent increase on the general rate were disappointed following confusion over the timing of last Thursday's meeting.

Rockbank's Manuela Van Liempd arrived at 7pm and was angry that residents had not been made aware of the 5.30 meeting time.

"Where we live we don't get local papers. The council didn't enlighten us and let us believe the meeting was at 7pm."

She said the council website stated that all council meetings, including the one on June 30, started at 7pm.

More than 200 people attended a budget submission hearing in June.

The council had proposed a higher rate category for development land - affecting 430 properties - to recover expenses related to planning of the urban growth area.

But under the revised budget the differential rating category will apply only to land of two or more hectares within the urban growth boundary for which a precinct structure plan (PSP) has been approved.

Council finance manager Shan Thuraiajah said that of the 89 properties with PSP status, the average rates bill would increase 187per cent compared with 2010-11.

However, the increase will vary between properties.

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The council also adopted an additional recommendation that an environmental enhancement rebate continue to apply to eligible properties that fall within the UGB, subject to the existing figure of \$10,000 being approved.

The rebate is aimed at encouraging landholders to carry out environmental improvements.

Resident David O'Connor said rural land owners within the UGB should be pleased that the council had made amendments based on their concerns.

"The decision ... should alleviate the long-term hardship potential as expressed by land owners without a PSP.

"At the submissions hearing on June 16, many submitters were very vocal about much fairer rate charges.

"The council, in my opinion, seems to have addressed these inequalities by categorising land within the UGB without a PSP as residential land."

Several landholders at last month's submission meeting said the proposed increase, which would have had many of them paying thousands of dollars more in rates, would force people off their land.

### **BFL: TOP SIX MAKE A BREAK**

*Melton Weekly –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/sport/football-australian-rules/bfl-top-six-make-a-break/2216657.aspx>

Ballarat Football League is in danger of turning into a competition of haves and have-nots after round 11 resulted in a two-game gap opening between sixth and seventh on the ladder.

Sunbury and Melton South's standing as finals-bound Eastern bloc teams received a boost with Redan's 20.11 (131) to 11.13 (79) win against East Point.

The Lions ground out a 27-point win in a low-scoring slog against North Ballarat City to establish a two-game cushion at the top of the ladder, while a bye at the weekend eased Melton South into the top six by three clear games.

Melton South's 32 points is good enough for fourth on the ladder behind North City on percentage, ahead of Ballarat and Redan (28 each) and seventh-placed East Point (20).

Bacchus Marsh couldn't continue its winning form away at reigning premier Lake Wendouree, leading at quarter-time but failing to hit the scoreboard after that in a 40-point loss. Bacchus Marsh led by 12 points at the first change but kicked just five more goals in the last three terms to Lake Wendouree's 14 in the 15.13 (103) to 8.15 (63) defeat.

Melton suffered a 144-point defeat away to Ballarat, while Sebastopol kicked away from Darley after half-time to win by 48 points.

### **POLICE IN MELBOURNE PELTED WITH ROCKS**

*9 news –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8269011/police-pelted-with-rocks-by-300-brawlers>

Two teenagers have been charged after a crowd of youths turned on police who tried to break up their party, pelting them with rocks.

Security was overwhelmed when around 300 youths attended the party in Albion in Melbourne's west on Monday night which was thought to have been held to celebrate the end of the school and university semester.

Acting Inspector Chris Gilbert said alcohol may have been one reason the party turned ugly, with fights breaking out.

One person who witnessed the events but did not wish to be named said police were far outnumbered and the youths were uncontrollable.

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Police were called to the party after minor scuffles and decided to disperse some of the crowd.

"As a result of that some other people moved on through various streets and a couple of fights broke out," Mr Gilbert said.

He said police decided to use capsicum foam and some arrests were made.

"Unfortunately some of the crowd involved in that later incident decided that they would throw some objects at our members, which we are very disappointed about," Mr Gilbert said.

One constable was struck on the arm and leg and suffered injuries that were not serious and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

Four males were arrested, including an 18-year-old from Taylors Lakes and a 16-year-old from Keilor Downs, who remain in police custody.

The two were charged with a string of unrelated robbery and armed robbery charges as well as assault.

"There was some security out there (at the party) but it may not have been adequate," Mr Gilbert said.

"We know some rocks and maybe bottles were thrown at our members."

A 21-year-old Melton man and an 18-year-old from Caroline Springs were released without charge.

### **SOUNDWAVE MUSIC FESTIVAL WILL ROCK MELTON**

*Melton Weekly – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/soundwave-music-festival-will-rock-melton/2216640.aspx>

The Soundwave music festival is expected to bring thousands of fans to Melton's Tabcorp Park to see big-name rockers like Van Halen, Alice Cooper and Hole.

But for one local fan who hopes to be among the crowd, it won't be his first rock experience. Melton MP Don Nardella,

who lists heavy metal as an interest in his official parliamentary profile, is yet to buy a ticket to the September 30 gig but believes the event will be a major boost for local traders.

"I think it will be terrific. It's great for Melton and will really put it on the map," he said.

"I saw Van Halen with David Lee Roth many many years ago - they were just brilliant." Tabcorp Park general manager Joe Isivic said Tabcorp Park was organising extra buses and doing everything possible to ensure people were not disadvantaged by having to travel to the Melton venue.

The event was previously held at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds.

Isivic said ticket sales had been strong and he was confident the venue capacity of 30,000 to 40,000 would be suitable.

Soundwave general manager Chris O'Brien said the Melton venue was chosen because of its modern facilities and because it was in an area unlikely to attract noise complaints.

Tabcorp Park business manager Elizabeth Porter said onsite accommodation was booked out.

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"It's a fantastic opportunity that they are bringing such a successful event to Melton Shire, and a lot of our staff are looking forward to it being on their doorstep."

Greater Melton Chamber of Commerce president Mary Todorov is thrilled for what the festival could do for the township's image.

"There are plenty of individuals, businesses, organisations that, for the first time, are batting for us and talking about us," she said.

"With event organisers using local providers and attracting a global media and marketing frenzy, this is exactly what we need to invigorate our economy."

### **MELTON TICK OF APPROVAL, BUT RESIDENT IS JUST TICKED OFF**

*Melton Weekly –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/melton-tick-of-approval-but-resident-is-just-ticked-off/2216644.aspx>

'I'm not a great advocate of those surveys ... it doesn't matter what you answer.'

Melton Council says it is pleased with the results of a new statewide community satisfaction survey, but the shire's leading residents group believes there's plenty more to be done.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey gauged the views of 350 residents on council's performance on a number of general areas and within specific council responsibilities.

Seventy-seven Victorian local councils took part in this year's survey.

Mayor Justin Mammarella said Melton's performance compared well to other councils.

"The data indicates that Melton Council exceeds the median result for councils in its group in several areas, including its overall performance, community engagement, local roads and footpaths, appearance of public areas, economic development and town planning policy and approvals," Cr Mammarella said.

"This is extremely encouraging given the high levels of growth being experienced in the municipality."

But Melton Residents Association president Peter Rowan said he believed that such surveys were often worded in such a way to favour the subject. "I'm not a great advocate of those surveys ... it doesn't matter what you answer."

He said an example of council not following the community's wishes was its recent decision to deny funding for the construction of Abbey Road in the 2011-12 budget.

"As a residents association, we have identified this issue for our town," he said. "Noone on our committee has a private agenda by pursuing the construction of this road."

"We're asking for something for the whole community; we're not asking for a new sporting ground, instead a significant piece of infrastructure that will benefit the whole community."

Sixty-nine per cent of surveyed residents said the council needed improvement in keeping the community informed. Customer contact was also found to be an area needing improvement due to a lack of follow-up, according to 47 per cent of surveyed residents.

The survey was prepared by the Wallis Consulting Group.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



### 'FAIR' LAW DEFERS DEVELOPERS' TAX

*Melton Weekly –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.meltonweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/fair-law-defers-developers-tax/2216634.aspx>

A bill enabling landowners to defer the tax they pay on their property has passed through State Parliament.

The state government has hailed the changes to the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) as fair, but the opposition has attacked a key element of the reforms.

The new scheme means developers will pay a contribution when development on land begins, not when the land is bought.

Western Metropolitan MP Andrew Elsbury praised the bill, which Parliament passed last Wednesday.

"Our bill is a lot fairer and does not penalise the landowner, which is what the Labor Party's GAIC proposal did with demanding the GAIC upfront," he said.

"These amendments move the burden from retirees and pensioners onto developers."

The bill included works-in-kind (WIK) agreements, allowing developers to provide infrastructure in place of their contribution.

Mr Elsbury said agreements would need to provide critical state infrastructure earlier than it would have otherwise been delivered.

But shadow planning minister Brian Tee said WIK agreements could be made "in secret".

He said developers would want "pretty" infrastructure like parks to help attract potential homeowners, rather than infrastructure like schools and public transport.

As reported by the Weekly, Melton mayor Justin Mammarella has called on Planning Minister Matthew Guy to reconsider the changes.

"It appears on the surface to be an exercise in deals and secrecy," he said.

### MELTON MAYOR MAKES HOSPITAL PITCH TO PM

*Melton Leader –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-mayor-makes-hospital-pitch-to-pm/>

Melton Mayor Justin Mammarella has taken his campaign for a public hospital to the very top.

Cr Mammarella and council CEO Kel Tori met with Prime Minister Julia Gillard, Health Minister Nicola Roxon and Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten on Friday to discuss issues facing Melton Shire and the west.

The meeting was organised by LeadWest, and attended by representatives from several western suburbs councils.

During the meeting, Cr Mammarella took the opportunity to inform Ms Gillard of the significant issues facing Melton council as a result of the unprecedented growth being experienced in the shire.

The shire's population is growing at about 8 per cent a year.

Cr Mammarella also raised the council's call to establish a 24-hour public hospital in Melton.

He said Ms Gillard and Ms Roxon were "interested" to hear about this proposal and indicated they would be pleased to receive further information from council on this matter.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



Cr Mammarella said other issues raised included suburban jobs, urban renewal, community service provision, transport and environment protection and restoration.

"The meeting was an excellent opportunity to advocate to the highest level of government in the country on the critical needs confronting council and our community," he said.

"We have been very successful in working in partnership with the Federal Government and we look forward to a continued good working relationship with them."

### **MELTON SHIRE GRAFFITI HOTLINE TO HIT HOT SPOTS**

*Melton Leader –4<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/melton-shire-graffiti-hotline-to-hit-hot-spots/>

The bid to win the war on graffiti in Melton Shire is now just a phone call away.

A 24-hour graffiti hotline will start on July 1, encouraging residents to report graffiti at Melton Shire hotspots, including footpaths, bus shelters, telephone boxes and parks.

Information will be compiled in a graffiti database. It will be used to develop a list of tags and offenders and form a central register available to police to aid prosecutions.

The council-run initiative will see reported graffiti on roads, footpaths and street furniture removed within one working day of a report being received.

Graffiti on council buildings and in parks will be removed within seven working days. Graffiti on traffic signal control boxes, service pits, telephone boxes and mailboxes will be notified to their relevant authority within one working day of a report being received.

And for graffiti at a private property, owners can request a graffiti removal kit from the council or request a quote for the graffiti to be removed by a council contractor.

Melton mayor Justin Mammarella urged residents to use the new service in a proactive way to "ensure we have a clean and tidy shire and send the message that vandalism is not acceptable".

The graffiti hotline is 1800 779 484.

### **HOME THEFTS TRIGGER ALERT IN MELTON SHIRE**

*Melton Leader –3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011*

<http://melton-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/home-thefts-trigger-alert-in-melton-shire/>

Lock it or lose it, Melton police warn.

Police have alerted people to secure their homes and vehicles after a spate of thefts across the shire.

Acting Sen-Sgt Adam Tink said people could employ some simple measures to protect their property from thieves.

"Victoria Police are requesting members of the public to be alert in protecting their own personal property, and the property of others," he said.

Sen-Sgt Tink said simple ways to ensure your property was better protected included locking doors and windows and installing security lights.

He said homes became targets when their owners were away and suggested people have a trusted friend, family member or neighbour keep an eye on the house and collect mail and newspapers.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



Jewellery, two TVs, a camera, power tools and an ID security card worth \$3100 were snatched from a home in Cootamundra Court, Melton West, between 7am and 6pm on Thursday, June 16.

And two laptops, an MP3 player and jewellery worth \$2380 were stolen from a home in Strawberry Rd, Kurunjang, between 8.30am and 1.45pm on Friday, June 17.

On Sunday, June 19, two unsecured safes containing more than \$26,000 worth of cash and jewellery were stolen from a home in The Broadway, Caroline Springs, between 3pm and 8.45pm.

Two days later, more than \$3500 worth of power tools, including two chainsaws, were taken from an unlocked garage in Kororoit Court, Melton.

Information regarding these thefts can be reported to Melton police on 9747 7900, Caroline Springs police on 9361 4700 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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## MOONEE VALLEY

### **GYM BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TO HELP**

*Moonee Valley Leader*— 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/gym-bending-over-backwards-to-help/>

Local gymnasts will show vision-impaired kids the ropes at a fun 10-week gymnastics workshop.

Essendon Keilor Gymnastics Academy will run the workshop, which promotes balance, agility and spatial awareness.

The club received a \$2500 grant from the State Government's Youth Foundations Victoria to run a program that benefits the community.

Director Christy Hemphill said skills acquired in gymnastics were beneficial for children with low vision and the workshop encourages more vision-impaired children to get involved.

"For children with vision impairment, falls and bumping into things can often be a daily event," Ms Hemphill said. "Gymnastics teaches safe landing techniques, fall prevention and how best to control and manipulate your body."

"It is the foundation of all sports, providing balance, discipline, flexibility, coordination and motor skills."

Ms Hemphill said gymnasts would be coupled with vision-impaired five to 15-year-olds in gymnastics, trampolining and cheerleading.

Fifteen volunteers will deliver the free program every Friday from July 15, at 194 Roberts Rd, Airport West, from 7-8pm.

Details: 9336 4077

### **TRAFFIC MESS NOT IN PLAN**

*Moonee Valley Leader*— 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/traffic-mess-not-in-plan/>

Lives are put in danger every time students approach Ascot Vale West Primary School, parents say.

Concerned parents are urging Moonee Valley Council to adopt a traffic plan near Langs Rd and Victory Pde to control cars during school drop-off and pick-up times.

School council member Kylea Campana said the situation was "dangerous, chaotic and a nightmare", with nowhere for parents to park as they drop off their children.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



As a result, parents park illegally, reverse into driveways or oncoming traffic and execute dangerous U-turns in the middle of Victory Pde. Ms Campana said they were desperate for action.

"With the revamp of the showgrounds and an influx of residents at Edgewater and Ascot Chase, Langs Rd and the associated streets in and around Ascot Vale West Primary have become increasingly busy," Ms Campana said.

"Without a traffic management plan in place, council or police intervention, it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident or even a death on Victory Pde."

There are nine parking spots available at a school of about 270 students and more than \$17,500 in parking fines has been handed out in the area in the past 12 months.

Moonee Valley Council said there was "ample parking" within 300m of the campus but it was happy to contact the school to discuss the matter further.

Principal Beth Malouf said the school had been working closely with the council and VicRoads to improve safety.

### **IN MOONEE VALLEY, IT'S DAD'S TIME TO PLAY**

*Moonee Valley Weekly*– 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/in-moonee-valley-its-dads-time-to-play/2215104.aspx>

Moonee Valley has its first men's playgroup.

Moonee Valley Council formed it to give dads the chance to get together and build a social network with other parents while spending time with their children.

Moonee Valley mayor John Sipek said he was rapt to support the program.

"As a father, I think this is such a positive. Moonee Valley is made up of many different types of families and it's important for the council to ensure it has services available which reflect the growing and changing needs of the community."

The dads meet at the Overlands and Milleara Gardens Playgroup in Park Drive, Keilor East from 12.30-3pm each Tuesday.

For details, visit the council's website or phone Maternal Child Health Services on 92438888.

### **MOONEE VALLEY RACECOURSE PLAN HITS HERITAGE HURDLE**

*Moonee Valley Weekly*– 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://www.mooneevalleyweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/moonee-valley-racecourse-plan-hits-heritage-hurdle/2215098.aspx>

Essendon Historical Society has called for an interim heritage order to be placed on the Moonee Valley Racecourse to allow for a full heritage study of the site.

The heritage order could stymie the racing club's plans for a multimillion-dollar development at the course which includes multi-level apartment buildings and a retail precinct.

The Historical Society believes parts of the course, including the chief executive officer's house, the Edna Walling gardens and the Alister Clark Rose Garden could be historically significant.

Society vice-president Judy Maddigan said members were also concerned at changes to the racetrack.

"The racecourse has been in operation since 1883, the area needs very careful assessment before any changes are made."

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



The society has forwarded its concerns to Moonee Valley chief executive Neville Smith.

Meanwhile a lobby group called Save Moonee Ponds, led by resident Jenny Nola, has formed to fight the development.

"We appreciate the club's desire to improve its facilities, but believe the existing proposal would have a widespread negative impact on Melbourne's northwest," she said.

The racing club's master plan includes reconstructing the track and relocating the main grandstand to Wilson Street.

The club plans to fund the work by selling a large slice of land on the racecourse's western edge which would be developed for residential use.

### **PLAYGROUP IS BIG FUN FOR DADS TOO**

*Moonee Valley Leader— 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://moonee-valley-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/playgroup-is-big-fun-for-dads-too/>

Playgroup is no longer just the domain of mums chatting while their children are at play.

An Avondale Heights dad's initiative is getting fathers involved in taking their children to childcare, with the added incentive of catching up with the boys.

Peter King, father to 18-month-old Scarlett and husband to Anita, saw a need for the group after the occasional awkward experience with a mother-centric parents' group meeting.

"Going to these parents' groups, really they were kind of like mum's groups," Mr King said.

"Maybe sometimes it was just me who attended (as the only dad). So when they are asking how they are doing with breastfeeding, and it gets around to me, well I say 'I'm doing well with breastfeeding'."

"But they are lovely and a lot of the women are very supportive. But I suppose what you need is male company and dads understand each other and support each other in ways that I suppose your partners can't."

Mr King said old perceptions of men having a lesser role in child care duties were changing. Supporting stay-at-home dads who feel isolated or unusual was central to the program's aim.

But Mr King, who also has a child from a previous marriage, said he had also developed closer bond with Scarlett.

Moonee Valley Council has played a central role in making the program work.

Mayor John Sipek said the playgroup gave dads a chance to get together and build a social network with other parents.

"As a father, I think this is such a positive program," Cr Sipek said. "Moonee Valley today is made up of many different types of families. It is important for council to ensure it has services available which reflect the growing and changing needs of the community."

The council's community services spokeswoman, Cr Miriam Gillis, said there were many services to support women in their role as mothers.

"We were keen to do something to support and engage dads as well," she said. "We recognise dads play a vital role in the lives of their children and families."

"The group is only a few weeks old and is keen to recruit new members."

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



The dads meet each Tuesday from 12.30-3pm at the Overlands and Milleara Gardens Playgroup in Park Drive, Keilor East.

### **FEARS RISE AS SUN SETS**

*Moonee Valley Leader*– 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/fears-rise-as-sun-sets/>

Flemington and Travancore are the two most unsafe Moonee Valley suburbs at night, residents say.

Moonee Valley Council surveyed residents as part of its new Community Safety Program, asking about perceptions of safety in public areas, levels of reported crime, anti-social behaviour and injuries.

Locals rated the city's night safety 6.6 out of 10 in 2010 and 6.8/10 this year, but Flemington and Travancore rated only 5.6/10. Respondents said common issues were gangs, youth, crime and safety at certain locations.

One in six felt unsafe using trains.

Flemington Association president Kathryn Miller said the results were "understandable".

"Flemington Bridge Station certainly has safety concerns, along with the Newmarket Station underpass. There is insufficient lighting and it is not pedestrian-friendly," she said. "Concerns of safety are always more prominent at night. There are less people on the streets and more people in cars."

Ms Miller said the safety issues could be solved with more lighting in laneways.

Flemington police Sen-Sgt John Hili said he was surprised to hear Travancore had rated so low because it was "one of the lowest crime areas we have".

"As a general rule, crime has decreased across the area," he said.

The surveys found 94 per cent of residents felt safe walking alone during the day compared with 69 per cent at night. And 96 per cent said parks were safe to visit during the day but 30 per cent believed they were unsafe at night.

Mayor John Sipek said surveys helped the council identify areas, such as public transport and public space, that needed attention.

### **MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR HALL PROJECT COMPLETED**

*Moonee Valley Leader*– 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011

<http://moonee-valley-leader.wherelive.com.au/your-news/story/multi-million-dollar-hall-project-completed/>

Flemington Primary School (FPS) officially joined the education revolution when Labor Senator the Hon Gavin Marshall presided over the opening of its multipurpose hall on Friday.

A special recognition ceremony was held in the new complex with Senator Marshall, Federal Melbourne MP Adam Bandt, Essendon state Labor MP, Justin Madden, Moonee Valley Mayor, John Sipeck, staff, community members and students present.

Built as part of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution scheme, Flemington Primary School received a total of \$3 million of Commonwealth money for the multipurpose hall project.

This was bolstered by a \$200,000 contribution from the state government and \$400,000 made through a decade of fundraising by the school.

Senator Marshall congratulated FPS on the "fantastic" new facilities.

"Music, drama and sport are essential elements of any education for our children and it's a great investment we've made and that you have made come true for our children here today," Senator Marshall said.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



The Building the Education Revolution scheme is a \$16.2 billion initiative from the Commonwealth Government, aimed at modernising facilities in Australian schools.

Senator Marshall told the audience that some people believed spending money on buildings like the hall was a waste of money.

“We don’t think it’s a waste of money. We think it’s a fantastic, unprecedented investment in our children’s future, Australia’s future and the Government stands so proudly behind the decision we made when we needed to stimulate the economy to make the major part of that stimulation in school infrastructure,” he said.

Flemington Primary School principal, Lesley McCarthy, thanked the Commonwealth Government for the injection of funds.

“We would never have had anything like this without that support,” she said.

The project includes a full sized hall with a netball/basketball court and space to seat 500 people, a stage for performances and concerts, a large foyer and reception area with a commercial accredited kitchen, a large sports equipment store, a chair store and staff office.

The building also includes an Instrumental Music wing, with three large teaching spaces, a music classroom and stage wings.

Full performance lighting and audio visual equipment has been installed, as well as stage curtains and wide opening doors to the courtyard at the end of the stage.

Mrs McCarthy said that before the hall was built the school had an oval, one asphalted sport court and used portable toilets.

“We didn’t have enough permanent toilets to actually operate for the school,” she said.

The kitchen will operate as a canteen, another first for the school, and Mrs McCarthy was looking forward to using the hall as a multipurpose room.

“We can have a whole school assembly in here now, because we have the seating.”

The hall is a community facility and Flemington Primary School is already taking bookings from groups wanting to use the complex after hours.

It has also offered the building to other local schools to use for productions or concerts.

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## WYNDHAM

### ANOTHER COMMUNITY CENTRE OPENS IN WYNDHAM VALE

*Wyndham Leader – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/another-community-centre-opens-in-wyndham-vale/>

The second of three community centres to open in Wyndham this year is up and running.

Wyndham Vale Community Learning Centre opened yesterday.

It has the city’s fourth public library, two kindergarten rooms, maternal and child health consulting rooms and computers with public internet access.

The library will be closed on Sundays. It will open every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am-6pm; Wednesday, 10am-8pm; and Saturday, 10am-4pm.

What do you think of the new learning centre? Tell us below.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



Maternal and child health consultations start this week, and the kindergarten will open next year.

Walking groups, computer courses and more are being planned.

The opening follows that of Arndell Park Community Centre at Truganina in February.

Featherbrook Community Centre at Point Cook is due to open later this year, with at least two kindergarten rooms.

The council's draft budget for 2011-12 includes funds for a third kindergarten room at Pt Cook.

The council last week awarded a \$544,500 contract to design a community centre in the Tarneit Gardens estate on Penrose Promenade.

The centre is to include kindergarten, maternal and child health rooms, and programs for older people.

The council said the centres were needed to cater for Wyndham's booming population, now growing faster than any other in Australia.

The Wyndham Vale centre, costing more than \$8 million from local, state and federal governments, is on Manor Lakes Blvd, the Arndell Park centre is on Federation Blvd, and Featherbrook centre at the corner of Windorah Way and Boardwalk Blvd.

Other public libraries in Wyndham are at Point Cook, Hoppers Crossing and Werribee.

For more details, visit [wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://wyndham.vic.gov.au)

### **FIGHT FOR PROMISED WERRIBEE SCHOOL FUNDING**

*Wyndham Leader – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/fight-for-promised-werribee-school-funding/>

Wyndham Park Primary School community will receive the money to fix its stormwater and sewerage system and refurbish flood-damaged buildings, it was announced last week.

But parents have vowed to fight to ensure the Werribee school gets the facilities promised by the former Labor government.

The State Government announced \$560,000 for an upgrade of the school's stormwater and sewerage system and \$470,000 for building refurbishments.

But parent Lucas Owen said this was the bare minimum needed to ensure the school, badly damaged by floods this year, was up to standard.

Glen Orden and Glen Devon primary schools merged this year at Glen Orden's Kookaburra Ave site as Wyndham Park.

During merger talks, the Education Department told the school community it would build a new school but later said funds would go to two new buildings and the renovation of an existing two-storey building.

### **BLOODY PROTEST OUTSIDE PM'S WERRIBEE OFFICE**

*Wyndham Leader – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/bloody-protest-outside-pms-werribee-office/>

Bloody handprints were placed over the window of PM Julia Gillard's Werribee office this afternoon.

Protesters, themselves covered in fake blood, also smeared fake blood over the pavement outside the Synott St office to express their dismay at the resumption of live animal exports to Indonesia.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



Placard and banner-bearing opponents to the live animal exports brought along a sheep, named Timmy, the woolly ambassador of animal advocacy group Edgar's Mission.

The Federal Government suspended export of live cattle to Indonesia after graphic footage of Indonesian abattoirs was aired on ABC TV's Four Corners program.

Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig announced yesterday that exports would resume.

Edgar's Mission founder Pam Ahern said she was outraged at the resumption of exports and accused the government of cowering to vested interests.

"Australians care deeply about animal welfare and hold vivid the memories of Australian animals being subject to unspeakable acts of cruelty in Indonesian abattoirs," she said.

For more photographs of the protest, see our online gallery.

### **OPPOSITION TO WERRIBEE MEDICAL CENTRE**

*Wyndham Leader – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/opposition-to-werribee-medical-centre/>

Werribee residents are fighting plans for a 24-hour, seven-day medical centre opposite the Civic Centre in Princes Highway.

Almost 80 residents living in streets near the site, on the corner of Wattle Ave, objected to the original plans for 11 medical consulting rooms, four dental consulting rooms and a pharmacy.

After consultation with residents, the developer revised plans to five medical consulting rooms, two dental consulting rooms and the pharmacy.

Despite this, 17 more residents lodged objections with the council.

Objectors continue to be concerned that the extra traffic generated by the centre will worsen safety at what they say is an already dangerous intersection.

They are also concerned that insufficient parking (43 spaces) at the centre will mean centre patients will be forced to park in neighbouring streets and that the centre's 24-hour nature will make their neighbourhood unsafe.

Council officers had recommended the centre go ahead but Wyndham councillors deferred a decision last week at a meeting crowded with objectors.

It is believed the decision was deferred at the request of the developer.

Wattle Ave resident Pam Strong said the intersection of Wattle Ave and the highway was already "dreadful", with drivers turning left from the highway often not seeing traffic leaving another busy entrance to Wattle Ave immediately after the turn.

"I feel there is going to be a big horrendous accident there," she said.

Council officers found that the centre would not make the intersection more unsafe.

The council is also considering a traffic study looking at highway intersections between Derrimut Rd and Cherry St, and whether more traffic lights should be installed.

The council report also stated that "the development will result in employment generation and provide for personal services to meet community needs".

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



### **SNEYDES ROAD: FATALITY FEARS OVER SAFETY**

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/sneydes-road-fatality-fears-over-safety/2218194.aspx>

Wyndham residents fear someone will be seriously hurt or killed if something is not done to improve the safety of Sneydes Road.

The narrow road, with a bridge over the Princes Freeway, is the only route for cyclists between Werribee and Point Cook. It is also used by large vehicles on the most direct path to construction sites.

Sanctuary Lakes cyclist Catherine Ryan called for an urgent upgrade during last week's council budget submission hearing.

After riding her bike to the Derrimut Road swimming pool early one Saturday morning, Ms Ryan was alarmed by the number of trucks on the road.

"I got so angry, I counted 10 B-double trucks using this road and that makes it incredibly dangerous for cyclists and all road users," she said. "It is not wide enough, and it's ridiculous considering it is the only route for cyclists connecting Point Cook to Werribee."

Ms Ryan is a member of the Western Women's Cycle Users Group. Her greatest concern is the small bridge linking Werribee and Point Cook.

"That section is particularly unsafe due to recent wet weather, with the edges almost totally destroyed. The road is barely two lanes wide along most of the section.

"If the plan is to duplicate the road, then let's have two lanes both ways now. I don't think I am exaggerating by saying the council will have blood on its hands if this section is left as is."

Wyndham Vale motorist Jason Vegter, who uses the road daily, echoed Ms Ryan's concerns.

"It's really unsafe, especially that narrow bridge. There's no bike lane, and if a truck is coming the other way, it's a really tight squeeze."

Mr Vegter said the area's rapid growth meant many more people were using Sneydes Road as a connection between Point Cook and Werribee.

"The infrastructure has to keep up with the developing area."

While he did not wish to comment on the particular stretch of road, Senior Constable Darrin Sheehan urged users to exercise caution. "We all have to be patient and ensure that we don't put ourselves or others in danger."

A council spokesman said that following the public exhibition of the proposed 2011-12 budget, submissions would be taken into consideration before its adoption next Monday.

### **ITALIAN SOCIAL CLUB'S DOUBLE WHAMMY AS EXPANSION, POKIES REJECTED**

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/italian-social-clubs-double-whammy-as-expansion-pokies-rejected/2218200.aspx>

Wyndham councillors have opposed a bid by the Italian Social Club of Werribee for more gaming machines as part of its expansion plans.

However, the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation will have the final say on whether the venue can increase its number of machines from 57 to 70.

It gained additional entitlements following the state government's gaming auction.

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



The council also voted to reject the club's proposed extension of bistro and gaming areas, with a decision on the planning aspects to be made by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal following a hearing on August 22.

It comes after the council failed to make a decision on an application for a planning permit within the required 60 days.

Iramoo ward councillor Cynthia Manson told the June 27 meeting she was having a conscience vote on the matter.

"We're grasping at straws trying to find ways to prevent an increase of EGMs [electronic gaming machines] in our community," she said.

"Our policy is we don't want [numbers] to be increased above the Melbourne metropolitan average [6.2 machines per 1000 adults]."

In May last year, the council abandoned its zero-tolerance stance on pokies in favour of a population-based approach in line with the metropolitan average, but conceded it could not legally enforce the limit.

Other venues have lodged applications with the VCGR, including Tigers Clubhouse, which proposes to increase its number of machines from 65 to 75.

Meanwhile, a new venue with 60 poker machines has been proposed on the corner of Boardwalk Boulevard and Murnong Street in Point Cook.

Victorian InterChurch Gambling Taskforce chairman Dr Mark Zirnsak said growth areas were routinely selected by operators of poker machines.

"It's a David and Goliath battle, with under-resourced communities and councils having to take on the financial might of the pokies industry."

The Italian Social Club of Werribee did not return calls before the Weekly went to print.

### **SALVOS WARN OF WYNDHAM HOUSEHOLD DEBT SPIRAL**

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/salvos-warn-of-wyndham-household-debt-spiral/2218216.aspx?storypage=0>

Growing numbers of Wyndham residents are being caught in a debt spiral, according to one of the city's emergency relief agencies.

Wyndham City Salvation Army community support services manager Sue Brookshaw said 3963 clients were helped between July last year and May this year, or an average of 84 people a week.

The Salvation Army and Werribee Support and Housing last week pleaded for more emergency relief funding as part of a submission on Wyndham Council's proposed 2011-12 budget.

The organisations made the request after being told extra federal funding allocated during the global financial crisis would be cut from July 1.

Ms Brookshaw said the Salvation Army had distributed \$83,480 in food vouchers; \$9536 in assistance for accommodation, medical services, education and utility bills; and money to help residents after six house fires.

It also provided more than \$46,000 in phone, petrol, department store, public transport, eyewear or shopping vouchers.

"We see clients who are spending 80 per cent of their income in rent," Ms Brookshaw said.

"Many are living off their credit cards, paying high interest and selling personal items - it's often difficult to break the cycle."

More people were 'couch surfing' and spending a few days at a time with friends or in their cars, because they couldn't afford to get into the property market, she said.

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"A number of clients have been unemployed for so long they can't afford the petrol to get to a job interview.

"Parents often eat minimal amounts so they can afford to feed their children and fill up the car to take them to school.

" It's causing a lot of serious illness and marriage breakdowns."

Last month, Werribee Support and Housing voiced similar concerns.

Chief executive Carol Muir said cost of living pressures made more families seek handouts.

So high was the demand, the organisation overspent by \$50,000 last financial year.

Captain Lance Jeffrey told the council meeting the Salvation Army was seeking \$30,000 to maintain a case manager position to deal with the various underlying issues that could lead to welfare.

Ms Muir said Werribee Support and Housing was looking for \$34,551 a year to employ an early intervention worker three days a week to maintain existing service levels.

Mr Jeffrey said he had written to Prime Minister Julia Gillard asking for extra funds but had not received a response.

However, on Monday, a spokesman for Ms Gillard said Werribee Support and Housing would receive \$668,733 from 2011-14, and Wyndham City Salvation Army community support service would get \$312,087. For the Salvation Army, he said this would maintain 93 per cent of last year's funding levels and was a 48 per cent increase on its base amount.

### **JULIA GILLARD OPENS HOPPERS CROSSING SECONDARY SCIENCE CENTRE**

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/julia-gillard-opens-hoppers-crossing-secondary-science-centre/2218207.aspx>

A new \$2.1million science centre to be used by students across the western suburbs was opened by Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Friday.

The facility at Hoppers Crossing Secondary College will initially provide a curriculum centred on forensics, water conservation, food technology and nano-technology.

Funded through the federal government's Building the Education Revolution program, it will also offer best-practice activities for the region's primary and secondary schools.

Principal Wayne Terrill said that in planning the centre, the college had formed partnerships with Victoria University and Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, which jointly sponsored \$100,000 of equipment.

Mr Terrill said the association with these organisations, along with Wyndham Council, would enable the college to consolidate, expand and promote its science agenda to the broader community.

"It encourages students to develop questions about the world of science and apply integrated thinking to solve real problems.

"This centre will promote critical thinking and build skills that will be transferable to future outcomes for the students."

The university's school of engineering and science has sponsored three key pieces of equipment, including an atomic absorption spectrophotometer to analyse metals and a liquid chromatograph for separating and analysing mixtures.

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Senior lecturer in chemistry at Victoria University, Dr Domenico Caridi, said VU would provide ongoing support by helping to devise experiments and through work placements for science and teaching students. "Science is an exciting career and it's critical to give students opportunities to use facilities that will inspire them and extend their understanding."

### **JULIA GILLARD WELCOMES SOME VERY NEW CITIZENS**

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/julia-gillard-welcomes-some-very-new-citizens/2218203.aspx>

Prime Minister Julia Gillard met some of city's newest residents, including little Perle Boothby, 14 months, as part of the fifth annual Welcoming the Babies morning tea at the Wyndham Civic Centre.

On Friday the federal member for Lalor was surrounded by the patter of tiny feet as she presented certificates to the infants. Parents were also provided with information packs outlining the range of services available in the municipality. "It's about reminding parents the community will support them as they raise their babies," Ms Gillard said.

### **WERRIBEE TRADERS ARGUE CITY CENTRE 'NEEDS HELP TO COMPETE'**

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/werribee-traders-argue-city-centre-needs-help-to-compete/2218202.aspx>

A dedicated full-time promotions co-ordinator is "imperative" for Werribee City Centre to compete with Wyndham's larger shopping centres, according to the local chamber of commerce.

The group sought funding for the role at a meeting to hear the 11 submissions to the council's 2011-12 draft budget.

President Peter Ross told councillors the co-ordinator would focus on the development and marketing of the centre and organise events such as the monthly Watton Street twilight market.

They would oversee membership issues, act as a conduit between the council and business owners and instigate and oversee promotional opportunities. Chambers members now do this on a voluntary basis.

Mr Ross said the role was vital to the future of the city centre.

"Both the Werribee Plaza and Point Cook Town Centre have promotions co-ordinators. They're also common in many of Melbourne's shopping strips. We've heard some Werribee residents even travel to Point Cook to do their shopping.

"We want to attract people back to the city centre."

In other submissions, Wyndham Vale Sports Club requested funding for two new 25-metre light towers at its main football oval.

Club spokesman Peter Maynard said the reserve's lighting was inadequate and unsafe and had resulted in players being injured as a result of training in poorly lit conditions. He estimated the cost at \$125,000- \$195,000.

Werribee Football Club has asked for \$300,000 for design work on the Chirnside Park development plan, \$30,000 to upgrade player interchange boxes and \$20,000 for a storage shed. Chief executive Mark Penaluna said a shipping container was now being used to house equipment.

Wyndham Disability Action Group appealed for more than \$61,000 to increase the accessibility of businesses in Watton Street, Werribee.

The council will consider the submissions before voting on adopting the budget at a meeting next Monday.

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### WYNDHAM PARK PRIMARY FLOOD REBUILD GETS FUNDS BOOST

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/wyndham-park-primary-flood-rebuild-gets-funds-boost/2218199.aspx>

A Wyndham school hit hard by February's floods has been given a funding boost.

Wyndham Park Primary School last week received an additional \$470,000 from the state government to supplement the refurbishing of its Kookaburra Avenue site, as well as up to \$560,000 for an upgrade of its stormwater and sewerage systems.

The school was the result of a merger between Glen Devon and Glen Orden primary schools. But flood damage caused by February's wild weather - which came only hours after the school opened - played havoc with infrastructure.

Water damage and leaks were a big concern, with mould forming in some of the buildings.

Principal Daniel Vella said the additional funding was a victory for the school community.

"This will give our students better opportunities and allow staff to perform to a really high standard as a result.

"This is the icing on the cake for our staff, and I'm really over the moon for our kids and parents.

"The main upgrade will be refurbishing the existing building at Kookaburra Avenue and transforming it into a state-of-the-art facility that students can utilise."

### WYNDHAM TOURISM PLAN DOUBTS RAISED

*Wyndham Weekly – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.wyndhamweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/wyndham-tourism-plan-doubts-raised/2218197.aspx?storypage=0>

Raising awareness of Wyndham's attractions and improving the city's image are among the top priorities of the council's new five-year tourism and events strategy.

However, the Wyndham Tourism Association and Cr Heather Marcus believe the strategy is more of the same, lacking vision and overlooking smaller business operators in favour of the area's big attractions.

Adopted last week, the strategy follows months of consultation with community groups, businesses and residents. An expert reference group with representatives of Parks Victoria, Destination Melbourne, Tourism Victoria and Zoos Victoria helped guide the strategy.

Other aims include developing a clear brand for the municipality, promoting positive perceptions and stepping up the push for road upgrades and improved public transport.

Mayor John Menegazzo said the strategy was aimed at building on the foundations of tourist attractions such as the Werribee Open Range Zoo, Werribee Park and Mansion, and events such as the Children's Week Picnic and Legends on the Lawn.

"Just like our population, the number of people visiting Wyndham is growing. This strategy will ensure we continue to attract tourists in a researched and targeted way."

In a 2007 survey by Tourism Alliance, 75per cent of visitors identified the region as Werribee and less than 1per cent as Wyndham.

Most respondents were not aware it was a coastal city with a beach.

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According to council figures, the number of day-trippers visiting Wyndham went up 22 per cent each year from 2006-09.

The strategy focuses on four main tourism precincts, including Werribee Park, the river and the city centre.

It is aimed at developing more events, promoting overnight stays and short breaks, increasing the amount of money visitors spend and encouraging repeat visits.

Cr Menegazzo said another element was the development of a city-wide annual events calendar.

### **RIDING INTO A STORM IN WERRIBEE**

*Wyndham Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/riding-into-a-storm-in-werribee/>

A cyclist says Wyndham Council will have “blood on its hands” if it does not upgrade a local road.

The warning about Sneydes Rd, Werribee, came during a council meeting last week to hear submissions on the city’s proposed Budget for 2011-12.

The council is now considering the submissions. The Budget will be finalised next week.

Catherine Ryan told the meeting Sneydes Rd needed at least a shoulder between Hacketts Rd and the Princes Highway to cater to cyclists from Point Cook who had no choice but to use the road to get to Werribee and Hoppers Crossing.

“I don’t think I am exaggerating by saying that the council will have blood on its hands if this section is left as it is,” the Point Cook resident of 12 years said.

“The money has to be found and it has to be this year.”

Ms Ryan said using Sneydes Rd was a “truly awful and terrifying experience” for cyclists, and frustrating for motorists who got stuck behind them.

She said the two-lane 70-80km/h road was busy even outside peak hours and used heavily by trucks. Pulling off the road had become difficult due to road edges being washed away.

In other submissions, Wyndham City Salvation Army and Uniting Care Werribee Support and Housing asked the council to fund workers needed for vital services.

Wyndham Vale Sports Club asked for extra lights at its oval, saying players had collided in poorly lit areas and injured themselves.

Werribee Football Club wanted funds, including for a storage shed to replace a shipping container, and Westside Motocross Club wanted a new track at Laverton North’s Laurie Emmins Reserve, saying it would reduce illegal riding.

Werribee Chamber of Commerce asked for help to better promote Werribee CBD and Wyndham Disability Action Group asked for funds to improve accessibility to shops in the city centre.

### **WYNDHAM SALVOS SEEK FUNDING**

*Wyndham Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/wyndham-salvos-seek-funding/>

The local Salvation Army has asked Wyndham Council to make up much-needed funds being cut back by the Federal Government.

Wyndham City Salvation Army Captain Lance Jeffrey told a council meeting last week to hear submissions on the city’s proposed Budget that the Federal Government gave it extra funds in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to help it deal with increased demand due to the global financial crisis, but was not providing them in 2011-12.

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He said they were being used to employ a worker to help people with underlying issues that led them to welfare.

Capt Jeffrey said he wrote to Prime Minister and local federal MP Julia Gillard in April asking for the extra funds to continue as demand had increased.

He has not received a response.

Capt Jeffrey asked the council for \$30,000 over the next year to keep the worker.

The council is considering his request.

Cr Kim McAliney told the meeting Ms Gillard would be “embarrassed” to hear of Capt Jeffrey’s predicament and urged him to hand the letter to Ms Gillard or one of her representatives during her visit to Werribee on Friday.

A spokesman for Ms Gillard confirmed funds were being reduced.

He said Ms Gillard had not received the letter, but she would look into the issue when she did.

Cr McAliney said a new letter was handed over on Friday.

Also at last week’s submissions meeting, Uniting Care Werribee Support and Housing asked for \$34,551 to employ an early intervention worker three days a week for a year.

### **PUBLIC STAYS AWAY FROM WERRIBEE PLAZA**

*Wyndham Leader – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/public-stays-away-from-werribee-plaza/>

A new public square in Werribee’s CBD is attracting politicians, but not being used much by locals.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard, the local federal MP, officially opened the \$1.3 million piazza last Friday.

Just 15 people went into the piazza during four half hour visits by the Leader over four days last week. Most stayed only minutes.

The piazza at Watton and Wedge streets has been open since February.

It was funded by local, state and federal governments.

Wyndham Council is now building a \$5.3 million pedestrian bridge from the piazza, over Werribee River and into Wyndham Park, and has \$157,000 in its 2011-12 draft Budget for a piazza kiosk.

The projects are part of plans to transform Werribee CBD into a capital city for Melbourne’s West.

While in Wyndham last week, Ms Gillard also hosted the fifth annual Welcoming the Babies ceremony; officially opened a new federally funded science centre at Hoppers Crossing Secondary College; and handed out Above and Beyond awards recognising local community workers.

The Leader visited the piazza last Monday, 2-2.30pm; Tuesday, 1.20-1.50pm; Wednesday, 11-11.30am; and Thursday, noon-12.30pm, in fine weather.

Two people were there on Monday, six on Tuesday, four on Wednesday, and three on Thursday. There were alcohol bottles there on the Monday.

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### HOPPERS CROSSING BASEBALL BAT ATTACK TERRIFIES CABBIE

*Wyndham Leader – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/hoppers-crossing-baseball-bat-attack-terrifies-cabbie/>

A taxi driver has been left terrified after his cab was attacked by masked men with baseball bats at Hoppers Crossing.

Police said the driver, working nightshift, was responding to a pick-up call outside Wyndham Leisure and Events Centre when his cab was set upon.

“When the driver arrived, he was approached by a male who asked what the fare was to the railway station,” police said.

“As the driver was about to answer the question four other males approached the taxi and surrounded it.

“One of the males has then produced a baseball bat and smashed the rear window of the taxi.

“As the taxi driver has accelerated to get away, another male has smashed the front windscreen with a baseball bat.”

Police said four of the men had face masks on, one depicting a skull. A man without a mask was Caucasian, aged in his mid twenties. He had an Australian accent.

The incident happened on Thursday June 30 at 12.30am. The centre is on Derrimut Rd.

### POINT COOK SCHOOL CROSSING WIN

*Wyndham Leader – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011*

<http://wyndham-leader.wherelive.com.au/news/story/point-cook-school-crossing-win/>

A second crossing supervisor is now guiding children across Dunnings Rd outside Point Cook’s Carranballac College.

Parents asked Wyndham Council to provide a second crossing supervisor after the council completed the \$1.5 million creation of an extra lane in each direction, between Palmers Rd and Juniper Ave (Leader, May 24).

Parents had said crossing safety had worsened since the road was widened.

## ACROSS THE REGION

### FULL-TIME JOBS SURGE BUT PART-TIME JOBS DROP

*The Herald Sun – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/business/full-time-jobs-surge-but-part-time-jobs-drop/story-fn7j19iv-1226090196480/>

A surprise surge in full-time employment has seen the Australian economy claw back almost all of the jobs it shed in the wake of summer's natural disasters.

More than 59,000 full-time jobs were created last month - the biggest one-month increase in almost three years.

But the unemployment rate remains stuck at 4.9 per cent with 36,000 part-time jobs disappearing in June, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released yesterday.

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And in a further reflection of the Australian economy's polarised fortunes, the construction industry declined for the 13th straight month as the housing sector slumped, Housing Industry Association figures show.

The performance of construction index, measured by the association and Australian Industry Group, slumped to 35.8 points in June - significantly below the 50-point threshold that separates expansion from contraction.

Economists said the Reserve Bank board would look to inflation figures due late this month after the surge in full-time employment, which could lead to wage pressures.

JP Morgan analyst Helen Kevans said the board had not moved fast enough on interest rates during the first mining boom.

"In the early stages of the last resource boom, labour market pressures appeared contained, but domestic inflation soon picked up significantly amid high levels of economy-wide capacity utilisation and stronger growth in global commodity prices," Ms Kevans said.

She said while there may be some moderation in the jobs market in the near term, overall employment growth would continue into next year powered by soaring resources prices and commodity revenues.

But Commsec economist Savanth Sebastian cautioned that the unemployment rate had "effectively gone nowhere for seven months".

"Overall the job market is in reasonable shape but it is now going sideways," Mr Sebastian said.

TD Securities strategist Roland Randall said the figures showed the economy was in "reasonable health" despite negative impacts from the high Australian dollar and low consumer demand.

Victoria's unemployment rate dropped the most, from 5.1 per cent to 4.6 per cent, while there were also small reductions in SA, WA and Tasmania. Unemployment rose in NSW, Queensland, NT and ACT.

### **LOCALS MAKE A NOISE OVER BUCK-PASSING ON TRUCKS**

*The Age* – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/locals-make-a-noise-over-buckpassing-on-trucks-20110705-1h0rd.html>

When Noah Lautman-Wurt was seven, his family took him to his first protest rally over the number of trucks in residential streets in their Yarraville neighbourhood.

Noah, now 17, has heard a decade of state government promises to reduce the number of trucks driving through the inner western suburb.

It hasn't happened. About 7000 still drive down Yarraville's Francis Street each weekday.

Noah says he has grown up used to the number of trucks using his suburb as a bypass to the port.

He goes to school in Flemington now and notices the difference. "I barely ever see trucks around that area compared to here."

Noah's father, Martin Wurt, is secretary of the Maribyrnong Truck Action Group, which met with the Environment Protection Authority's chief executive yesterday to discuss diesel emissions in Yarraville.

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Mr Wurt's group has been seeking a meeting with Transport Minister Terry Mulder since the government was elected last year to see if it has any plan to deal with the truck issue.

Mr Mulder has rejected the meeting requests, telling the group he is too busy.

The former Labor government had a plan to build ramps on to the West Gate Bridge, but these would have also been used for cars - and perhaps had the impact of putting yet more traffic into the inner west.

The group has now moved to form a coalition of groups, including the Labor Party, the Greens, transport unions and residents, to try a different approach to getting something done about the number of trucks travelling through the area.

Mr Wurt has little faith that anything will change soon. "Having lived in the west for 19 years, we are never at the top of government agendas," he says.

Mr Mulder told The Age yesterday that the former government had "11 years to do something about trucks in the west, yet no works were ever started".

He said there was a real need to provide the best solution for freight vehicles to access the port with the least impact on residential areas.

The former government's plan for ramps on to the West Gate was now being "thoroughly reviewed", Mr Mulder said, before any action was taken.

Research to be released today shows that almost 70 per cent of Australians want truck movements restricted to non-peak periods and that half want large trucks banned from cities. The Auspoll study, being released by a public transport and health coalition at a Parliament House summit today, also found more than 80 per cent of Australians want the federal government to be more involved in the strategic funding and planning of public transport.

### 'POOR PLANNING' DELAYS PROJECTS

*The Australian* – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/poor-planning-delays-projects/story-e6frgczx-1226087512714>

Crucial infrastructure projects including Sydney's M5 motorway, rail projects in Brisbane and Melbourne's east-west road link have stalled because of a lack of state government investment and adequate planning, critics say.

Infrastructure Australia's annual report, *Communicating the Imperative for Action*, said it was disappointing that more projects had not advanced further on its pipeline of priority projects, which guides private and government investment.

The IA report says Melbourne's Regional Rail Link has struck problems in delivery, while Western Australia's Oakajee port is still being developed even though the government has earmarked funds and the former NSW government has dumped Sydney's CBD Metro.

The report also says states and councils pitching for federal funding need to explore innovative and alternative means to tackle their infrastructure woes, rather than simply trying to build their way out of them.

And despite widespread suggestions that NSW had received less money in previous funding rounds because of the poor quality of its submissions to IA, this year's report states that the quality of submissions was in line with those made in 2008 and 2009. "This is disappointing," IA concluded.

According to the report, the recently elected Coalition governments in Victoria and NSW are still reviewing projects submitted by their Labor predecessors and are yet to offer new or revised projects to the infrastructure body.

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The criticism prompted lobby group Infrastructure Partnerships Australia to say that several projects -- including the M5 motorway that would improve access to Port Botany and Kingsford Smith Airport and an east-west road link connecting Port Melbourne -- were held up by a lack of government investment or thorough planning.

IA has identified \$86 billion worth of priority projects, of which just \$19.2bn worth are deemed "ready to proceed". A further \$13.4bn worth of projects need further work, while the rest are at earlier stages.

The report could further fuel tensions between federal Labor and the NSW Coalition government over road funding.

Sydney's northwest and southwest rail links are not on the current priority list, although IA is likely to consider the projects for next year's report. But yesterday a spokesman for NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said these projects should be at the top of the list for commonwealth funding.

"These are the areas which need rail services more than anywhere else in Australia and the commonwealth needs to recognise this," the spokesman said. "The people of NSW made it clear at the March election that they want these lines built and the federal government needs to listen."

Federal Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese said private investors and governments had more information to make decisions now because IA had published its cost-benefit analyses and project submissions. The group was given more funding in this year's federal budget. This followed pressure by groups including the Business Council of Australia for IA's role to be boosted.

### **POLICE ATTACKED DURING WILD BRAWL IN ALBION**

*The Herald Sun* –5<sup>th</sup> July 2011

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/police-pelted-with-rocks-during-brawl-involving-up-to-300-in-albion/story-fn7x8me2-1226087690250>

Police were pelted with rocks during a wild brawl involving up to 300 people in Melbourne's west last night.

Officers were called to a function centre in Carrington Drive, Albion, after a number of fights broke out just before 10pm.

Whilst police were patrolling the area, they discovered a brawl at the intersection of Ballarat Road and Wasley Street.

As police discharged OC foam whilst attempting to arrest a 21-year-old Melton man, the crowd began to throw rocks at police.

A constable from Sunshine police station was struck.

He was treated by ambulance paramedics at the scene for bruising.

An 18-year-old man from Taylors Lakes and a 16-year-old boy from Keilor Downs continue to assist police with their inquiries.

The 21-year-old Melton man and 18-year-old Caroline Springs man have been released without charge.

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### **COALITION GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY SUPPORTED BY INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA**

*Liberal Victoria –4<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.vic.liberal.org.au/News/MediaReleases/tabid/159/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/3412/Coalition-Government-infrastructure-strategy-supported-by-Infrastructure-Australia.aspx>

The Infrastructure Australia (IA) report to COAG released today identifies rigorous project planning and cost benefit analysis as a top priority for governments to achieve maximum return on infrastructure investment.

Treasurer Kim Wells said the Coalition Government is delivering our election commitments for new major infrastructure, fixing the botched projects left behind by Labor, and beginning a new pipeline of infrastructure to lift productivity.

“The number one priority of the Victorian Coalition Government is to deliver the government’s election commitments for major infrastructure including new rail links, major roads, ports, hospitals and schools,” Mr Wells said.

“Secondly, the Coalition Government is fixing the major problems inherited in infrastructure projects such as the Regional Rail Link project that was not properly planned or costed before Labor announced that it would proceed,” Mr Wells said.

The IA report highlights the Regional Rail Link (RRL) project as an example of previously approved projects that have since encountered difficulty.

“The Coalition Government is focused on ensuring that future infrastructure investments are properly planned and subject to a rigorous cost-benefit analysis, we have already established the new ‘High-Risk High-Value’ unit in the Department of Treasury and Finance and we are progressively reassessing the projects previously announced,” Mr Wells said.

“In stark contrast to the financial mismanagement of the Brumby Labor Government, the Coalition will make sure that planning and project cost estimates

have been properly prepared before new projects are submitted to IA,” Mr Wells said.

“While the Coalition is doing the hard work to fix the mismanaged and under-financed projects left on the drawing boards by the Brumby Labor Government, the Coalition is beginning a new phase of infrastructure planning,” Mr Wells said.

The IA report notes that the financial outlook for infrastructure investment is challenging and new emphasis is needed to establish suitable funding models.

This year alone, Victoria has been subject to an unprecedented \$2.5 billion GST cut, deferral of \$550 million in infrastructure funding, and passed over in the Federal Budget for infrastructure funding handed to other states by the Gillard Government.

“On top of estimated cost blow-outs of \$2 billion for projects left on the drawing boards by the Brumby Government and the record withdrawal of funding from Canberra, Victoria has been left with a difficult challenge to deliver major infrastructure projects.

### **CLOSURE OF SYDENHAM, BALLARAT AND BENDIGO RAIL LINES TO HIT COMMUTERS**

*The Herald Sun –4<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/rail-line-closure-to-hit-commuters/story-e6frf7jo-1226086732157>

Tens of thousands of commuters face a longer journey to work today owing to the closure of one of Melbourne’s busiest railway lines.

Trains on the Sydenham, Ballarat and Bendigo lines will be disrupted until July 18, because of work on the Regional Rail Link.

A trip into the city may take up to 45 minutes longer than usual.

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Delays are also expected on Ballarat Rd, where special lanes for replacement buses will operate between Anderson Rd and Ashley St. The RRL authority has said there may be significant delays, and has advised motorists to seek alternative routes where possible.

Trains will still run on the Sydenham line between Watergardens and Albion.

Express buses will go from Albion and Sunshine stations to Flemington Racecourse, from where trains will go to the city.

A replacement bus will also run from Sunshine, stopping at all stations to Footscray.

Metro has organised 230 buses to ferry 18,000 commuters a day to Flemington Racecourse and Footscray stations.

About 8000 Ballarat and Bendigo V/Line commuters will need to take replacement coaches.

RRL authority chief executive Corey Hannett said the existing two tracks between Sunshine and Tottenham stations will be moved to make way for two more, providing the capacity to run extra services along the Craigieburn, Sydenham and Werribee lines.

It will also lead to better V/Line services on the Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong lines, he said.

Mr Hannett said rail operators would take advantage of the shutdown - which had been planned for the school holidays to minimise disruption - to do other maintenance.

The line closed on Friday night, and replacement buses operated over the weekend.

Greens MP Colleen Hartland said the need for a complete shutdown had not been explained.

"The western suburbs are sick and tired of being treated like second-rate citizens," she said.

"Thousands of residents in the west are going to suffer greatly as a result of their trains being shut down."

The RRL, which also includes a new line from Werribee to Deer Park, should be complete in 2014.

### **REGIONAL RAIL WORKS MEAN LONGER COMMUTE**

*ABC News - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/07/04/3259923.htm>

Commuters on the Bendigo, Ballarat and Sydenham rail lines face a significantly longer journey to work over the next fortnight with the cancellation of all train services.

Buses will replace trains as workers carry out maintenance on the regional rail link.

The Sydenham line is closed between Albion and Footscray stations.

The chief executive of the Regional Rail Link Authority, Corey Hannett, says the closures were designed to occur during the quieter school holiday period.

"V/line and Metro do a lot of weekend closures and looking at the coordination approach that we took, in the school holidays you have less commuters on trains," he said.

"You also have less commuters in cars and on the roads, so that was one of the reasons we chose school holidays."

# LEADWEST'S NEWS SUMMARY FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST

## 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011



Mr Hannett says the track closures will lead to significant increases in travel times.

"We understand for the Bendigo and Ballarat corridors [it's] around about 45 minutes and on the Sydenham line about 30 minutes," he said.

### **ROOM FOR 7000 IN OUR NEWEST 'BURB**

*The Herald Sun –3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/room-for-7000-in-our-newest-burb/story-fn7x8me2-1226086254820>

About 250ha of land near Hoppers Crossing in Wyndham is the latest suburb to be unveiled by the Baillieu Government.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced on Friday he was opening Truganina South for residential development, 19km southwest of the CBD in an area bounded by Leakes and Palmers roads.

"Approximately 90,000 people move to Victoria each year and this government is committed to doing all it can to accommodate this population growth," Mr Guy said.

The new suburb will have 2500 dwellings and is expected to accommodate up to 7000 people.

Truganina is believed to be named after Truganini, the last full-blooded Tasmanian Aborigine thought to have lived in the area.

Resident Jacinta Krueger, who lives nearby with her husband, Grant, and sons, Khody, 4, and Owen, 2, said Wyndham was a great place to live and they welcomed the new development.

"There is so much to do for a growing family; sporting facilities, great schools, space for the young ones to run and play and plenty of cafes to catch up with all the other young mums in the area," she said.

"The new development will mean that more of our family and friends will be able to move here."

Mr Guy said the Government planned to release 50,000 new housing lots this year. In January he announced two new suburbs - Greenvale North and Greenvale West - which will house about 7000 people in 1570 houses on 363ha about 20km from the CBD near Craigieburn and Roxburgh Park.

There will also be a new 4000-lot suburb in Ballarat and new development sites in Coburg, Yarraville and Caulfield.

### **\$10M TRESPASS SUIT: BOB JANE SAYS HE LOST A LOT OF HAY**

*The Herald Sun –2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011*

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/tycoons-10m-trespass-suit/story-fn7x8me2-1226085880767>

Tyre magnate Bob Jane has launched a \$10 million-plus legal action against Brimbank City Council and a contractor.

Mr Jane claims the council and contractor trespassed on his land at Calder Park in February and destroyed his hay harvest.

He wants the Supreme Court to award him and Calder Park Promotions \$10.565 million.

Part of the claim is to "acknowledge the special suffering" he has endured.

"The trespass and the damage were an abuse by (Brimbank City Council) of administrative powers and an abrogation of public duties and responsibilities, which set a bad example in the public view," he said in his claim.

The council said late yesterday the writ, filed in the Supreme Court this week, had not been served.

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It rejected any claim of trespass and said it had acted in accordance with the legislation at all times.

According to court documents, the council demanded Calder Park cut a firebreak on the 117ha property. Mr Jane says the grass was wet and only a tenth of the height at which it would be ready for harvest.

Mr Jane says that during a meeting with the council he agreed to contract JLKJ Enterprises to mow the firebreak on the property.

But the whole paddock was cut, the contractor claiming he was under orders from the council to cut all the grass.

Mr Jane said the contractor was asked many times to leave the property.

He wants \$15,750 for lost income, \$550,000 for damages for trespass and \$10 million in exemplary damages.

Council spokesman Stephen Sully said Mr Jane had been told if he engaged his contractor the council team would leave.

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