

MELTON & MOORABOOL

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Small steps to save lives

When Melton PT gym manager Sarah Lock's 10-year-old son, Tyler, found himself in a tricky situation, she realised how important a child can be in an emergency.

Tyler's friend had fallen off play equipment and broke his wrist.

Sarah said Tyler snapped into action, grabbed an adult and ran to his mum.

"There was no stuffing around. It really showed that in a crisis kids can be really productive," she said.

Sarah was inspired by Tyler's actions and came across Cool Kids First Aid, a company that delivers first aid training to children as young as three.

Participants must aged between five to 13 and can expect to learn basic first aid, basic CPR, how to recognise an emergency situation and how and when to call triple-0. Sarah said the classes will be held at the gym and run for about two hours, but that "those two hours can make such a huge difference in tricky situations".

Powerline consultation

By Sarah Oliver

Landowners likely to be impacted by the controversial Western Transmission Network Project have been given a chance to raise their concerns with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Moorabool council hosted a video conference with residents and the department on Thursday night, during which DELWP senior impact assessor Jack Krohn spoke about the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES), which is a key step in decision making for the power line project.

The EES process aims to allow decision makers to make informed conclusions about whether a project should proceed considering its environmental effects.

AusNet is proposing to build an

190-kilometre transmission line above ground, stretching from Bulgana near Stawell through Moorabool and Melton to Sydenham.

Mr Krohn said the department was investigating alternative measures for the project. As reported by *Star Weekly*, AusNet's proposal has been met with anger in the community, with residents, council and local MPs calling for the powerlines to be placed underground.

"Undergrounding is identified as one of the possible alternatives that might deliver an environmentally superior outcome for this project," Mr Krohn said.

Mr Krohn said the EES report will also include an assessment of potential impacts to the environment in the future, such as transmission towers starting or worsening bushfires.

During the session, residents raised concerns for the "abundant" wildlife and forest areas which would be greatly impacted by the network.

Mr Krohn said he couldn't comment on what specific measures may be taken for particular areas or species, but that the department will include a specific investigation in its report.

"There's a system for dealing with mitigation and dealing with the sorts of impacts that may be identified. But at those very specific levels, it'll be in the final package," he said.

Earlier this week, AusNet released new guidelines for landholders, addressing issues like land access, compensations and easements.

Executive project director Stephanie McGregor said the compensation will be calculated and assessed on a case-by-case basis


and not be done with a "blanket approach".

"Compensation is understandably a critical issue for landholders and that's why we've developed these comprehensive guidelines as quickly as possible, ahead of the proposed route being determined," Ms McGregor said.

AusNet stated the compensation will also take into account farmland that will be impacted by the towers, and includes replacement of machinery which can work around the towers.

A study done by AusNet into the use of land and machinery height limits under the proposed transmission line confirmed that farming, including irrigated horticulture, can safely continue.



There will be a second session held by the council on Thursday, November 25 on understanding renewable energy zones.




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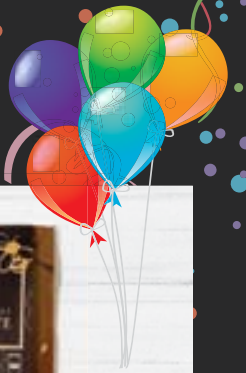
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Frustration over asbestos plan

Ravenhall is an ‘inappropriate’ location to dump asbestos-riddled waste, according to Melton council.

The council has expressed its frustration at Cleanaway’s plan to receive and dispose of asbestos waste at the Melbourne Regional Landfill in Ravenhall.

As reported by *Star Weekly*, Cleanaway is seeking approval from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to amend its licence in order to handle asbestos waste.

Melton mayor Goran Kesic said council had only recently been made aware of the

proposal. Cr Kesic said Ravenhall is an area where families live and work and is not an appropriate location to dump toxic materials.

“Cleanaway has a responsibility to ensure they clearly communicate these plans to the community, and provide ample opportunity for feedback. Cleanaway must directly and clearly articulate that this is a proposal to accept and process asbestos at their Ravenhall facility.”

Cr Kesic said all decision-making power lies with EPA and not with council.

“It is critically important that the

EPA thoroughly scrutinises the safety of Cleanaway’s plans for possible transportation and treatment of asbestos,” he said.

Cleanaway said in a statement the application will support the ‘Asbestos Disposal Management Plan’ from the state government, which stated that asbestos disposal facilities within Victoria are limited, with 27 locations across the state accepting asbestos waste.

“Our application to the EPA for a licence amendment requires a detailed asbestos management plan to ensure our compliance procedures for managing asbestos waste

will be robust and safe for our staff, local community, and the environment,” the statement said.

In its statement, Cleanaway said measures will be taken to minimise environmental and safety impacts, including being operated and monitored by trained professionals, GPS coordinates of where asbestos is located and monthly air monitoring around the perimeter of the asbestos disposal area.

Cleanaway will host several community information webinars in the next few weeks to inform the community of its plans.



Comm Unity Plus Services principal lawyer Martin Ha and mayor Goran Kesic with the ‘respect and equality’ flags displayed as part of the 16 days of activism campaign. (Damjan Janevski) 257178_01

Melton goes orange to stop violence

Melton residents are being encouraged to don bright orange clothes later this month as a part of a campaign to end gender-based violence.

Melton council will be taking part in the international 16 days of activism against gender based violence campaign, which aims to end violence against women and girls around the world.

Council is encouraging residents to wear orange clothes, the colour associated with violence against women, and participate in activities during the campaign.

There will be an array of events during the 16 days, starting on November 25, which

support the elimination of violence against women in the community.

Mayor Goran Kesic said the campaign is a reminder for the community that we all have a role to play in showing that inequality and violence is not OK.

“I’d encourage everyone to take a look at the events we’ve planned and join us for a walk with neighbours, or listen in to one of the inspiring talks, and help create a respectful and supportive culture for all people in our city,” he said.

The 16 Days of Activism events include:

- Mewlton Walks Against Family Violence;
- Chat with author of ‘South Sudanese

- Manhood and Family Crisis in the Diaspora’, Akuch Kuol Anyieth;
- #mykidsiadwhat? How to be a parenting influencer superstar with Nelly;
- Thomas Talk with Asylum Seeker Resource Centre volunteer and Human Rights Advocate, Akuol Garang;
- Family Violence: Navigating the Legal System;
- City of Melton Women in Sport Breakfast; and
- Respectful Relationships and COVID Connections

Details: melton.vic.gov.au/16days

Sarah Oliver

Hop aboard flexible bus

The state government has announced an expansion of flexible, on-demand bus services to Melton South.

FlexiRide is a service with no fixed route that allows residents to pre-book a seat via the FlexiRide Melton South app or phone and be directed to their closest bus stop.

Either a physical or appropriate alternative location will be suggested and the rider will be picked up and transported to dedicated hubs.

Public Transport Minister Ben Carroll said the expansion is designed to improve connectivity and flexibility of buses in Melbourne.

“Improving our public transport network means more people can choose to leave their cars at home knowing they can catch a reliable bus service,” Mr Carroll said.

Melton MP Stephen McGhie said the significant population growth in the area means its vital public transport is accessible and reliable.

Four new buses will connect passengers to key destination hubs including Cobblebank Station, Melton Station, Woodgrove Shopping Centre, Melton Bus Interchange, schools in Melton South and Thornhill Park.

The app provides users with real-time information, so passengers know exactly when their service is arriving.

The extension of FlexiRide follows successful trials in Rowville, and through Lilydale, Mooroolbark, and Croydon.

FlexiRide in Melton South will launch on December 12 with services operating from 6am to 9.30pm on weekdays, 7am to 9.30pm on Saturdays and 8am to 9.30pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Details: <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/>

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Kids returned to swimming lessons at Melton Waves last week. (Supplied)

Kids dive into lessons

Melton kids made a splash last week, diving back into swimming lessons after an 18-month hiatus.

BlueFit, which runs Melton Waves, hosted free three-day intensive swimming lessons last week to help school-aged children to safely return to the water after COVID lockdowns forced the closure of pools.

BlueFit swimming general manager Michelle Eason said a lot of work took place behind the scenes to get the lessons up and running again.

"While we are all grateful to be back in the

pool, we have to remember that many of the children haven't attended regular classes for nearly 18 months," she said.

"Safety always comes first and many kids may need to re-build their water confidence and skills".

According to BlueFit, consistency is critical to kids learning to swim and returning to lessons help to consolidate skills.

Details: <https://meltonwaves.com.au/>

Sarah Oliver

Briefs

Melton carols to go ahead online

Due to COVID restrictions, Carols in Melton will be held online via a live stream directly to people's homes. Audiences can expect a packed show, with MC Brodie Young, a full live orchestra and an array of singers and musicians. Santa is also due to make an appearance. Council has more to announce closer to the event, but residents can now register for the event.

Melton roundabout upgrade

The intersection at Taylors Road and Westwood Drive will be turned into a signalised intersection designed to improve traffic flow. Included in the plans are a road expansion, new pedestrian crossings, public lighting, landscaping and relocation of underground services. The project is valued at \$5.3 million, with construction expecting to start in late 2022 and finish in mid 2023. Feedback on the project can be submitted to council before December 3.

String of car fires

Five people have been arrested over a series of car fires recently. Police attended the fires in Darley, Bonshaw, Spargo Creek, Nerrina and Raglan. Information: Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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2022/23 Budget Submissions



Do you have a great project idea?

Council is inviting submissions for projects to be considered for Council's 2022/2023 budget.

Residents, local community groups, organisations, and clubs are invited to submit their ideas by completing the online Budget Submission Form at conversations.melton.vic.gov.au by Sunday 28 November.

Applicants can also register their interest to present their project to Council at a Budget Engagement Session to be held online on Wednesday 15 December.

For help completing the online budget submission form contact Council's Senior Community Engagement Officer on 9747 7200.

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Melton ambulance times worsen

By Sarah Oliver

Ambulance response times in Melton have continued to worsen as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause delays in the area.

The latest performance data from Ambulance Victoria for the three months to September reveals the entire health system is under “significant pressure and increasing demand”.

According to the data, paramedics responded to 2275 code one calls compared to 2265 in the three months to June.

Code one refers to calls which involve incidents that require urgent paramedic and hospital care, based on information received during the call, according to Ambulance Victoria.

The average response time in the September quarter increased to 15 minutes and 24 seconds, compared to fifteen minutes in the June quarter.

In the three months to September 2020, the average response time was 11 minutes and 35 seconds, however records show there 1800 calls were responded to.

Ambulance Victoria said in a statement the increase in response times is due to significant growth in Melton.

Ambulance Victoria chief executive Tony Walker said this quarter’s performance data was not surprising given the level of demand being experienced across the state as the pandemic continues.

“The entire healthcare system across Australia is under sustained pressure and our paramedics and first responders are experiencing this first-hand,” Professor Walker said.

“Along with increasing numbers of COVID-19 positive patients, demand has quickly rebounded to levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the lockdowns.

“Performance has also been impacted by time spent at busy hospitals transferring patients, wearing PPE to all cases and people who have delayed visiting their GP or specialist during lockdown now finding themselves more unwell and needing urgent care.”

In Moorabool, 52.4 per cent of code one calls were responded to in 15 minutes, up from 49.8 per cent in June.

However the average time has increased to 17 minutes and six seconds, up from 16 minutes and 45 seconds in the June quarter.

Paramedics responded to 441 calls in Moorabool in the September quarter, slightly less than the 456 calls in the June quarter.

In September 2020, paramedics responded to 383 calls in Moorabool, with the average response time 13 minutes and 31 seconds.

Professor Walker said Victorians are being urged to save triple-0 calls for emergencies only and to see their GP or pharmacist early

for advice or treatment.

Meanwhile, the state government has committed to investing \$40 million that will boost capacity to transport suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients and patients with less serious conditions.

“This funding package addresses the challenges we have today related to performance, to workload and demand with more paramedics, additional non-emergency patient transport vehicles and more support to improve patient flow at emergency departments,” Professor Walker said.

“The boost to non-emergency transport services will ensure patients get the right care at the right time, and that emergency ambulances are available for those needing time critical care.

“We suspect we will be facing these challenges due to COVID-19 until at least the end of the year and early into 2022.”

Scouts countdown to Christmas

Caroline Springs Scout group is back for in-person action and gearing up for Christmas.

For the third year, the group is selling Christmas trees from their centre in Burnside Heights and delivering to surrounding areas over the first two weekends of December.

Selling trees is one of the Scout’s major fundraising events, with stock quickly sold out last year.

Tree prices range between \$55 and \$75 depending on size and funds raised will go towards the Scout centre’s yard.

Event organiser Sarah Prentice said the area is “a bit bare” at the moment.

“To make it sun smart and accessible for all-abilities we are fundraising for an outdoor area with shading, decking and fire pit plus equipment and activities.”

The centre was closed during lockdowns, with Scouts meeting via zoom for weekly programs.

With restrictions eased, the group have returned to face-to-face activities this week and are “very excited” to be back.

“The youth just want to get back together and have fun,” Ms Prentice said.

Next year, the Scouts are looking forward to camping the most, with an upcoming event in

December to kick off the year.

“We have 27 Caroline Springs Scouts and leaders heading to VicJam – an 11-day Victorian Jamboree – in Elmore, near Bendigo, on December 29, 2021, to tackle activities ranging from abseiling, a wet ninja circuit, robotics and escape rooms,” Ms Prentice said.

Pre-ordering is highly recommended: trybooking.com/829556



Sarah Oliver
Caroline Springs Scout Evan. (Supplied)



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New Diggers Rest park approved

By Sara Oliver

Residents in Diggers Rest and surrounding areas can expect a new local park in the coming months.

Melton council recently approved plans for the one hectare park, named Flore Community Park, which will support the growing demand for green space in the community following ongoing lockdowns.

The park, in the Bloomdale estate, will be built by AVID Property Group, with work starting this month.

The project will add to the existing seven hectares of green space at Bloomdale and

will feature multiple barbeque and recreation spaces, multi-age play equipment, wide, open grass areas with pockets for nature and sensory play.

Flore Community park will also include multiple walkways for residents and visitors to incorporate into daily exercise routines.

AVID victorian general manger Peter Vlitass said the company found the overwhelming response for a park was driven by the needs of the local community, with information drawn from focus group sessions.

“Throughout 2020 we engaged with members of the Bloomdale community to seek their feedback on what they would like to

see in their local parks, both now and into the future,” Mr Vlitass said.

“Overwhelmingly, residents said they wanted the park to offer an experience, which is why we have incorporated various pockets of both active and passive spaces for people to explore throughout the new park.

“We’ve been in lockdown for a long time in Melbourne and we have come to appreciate the outdoors and opportunities to gather with friends and family, more so than ever before.

“We are thrilled to mark this exciting milestone and look forward to meeting the health and wellbeing needs of our local

community with the new Flore Community Park.”

CDA Design Group associate landscape architect Ninka Cook worked with AVID to develop the design of the park and said the community feedback was invaluable in creating a custom space for Diggers Rest.

“Throughout the pandemic we have seen people confined to their immediate surroundings for extended periods of time. The feedback has emphasised the need and want for the community to get outside and enjoy nature,” Ms Cook said.

The park is projected to be completed in April 2022.

Wandi’s amazing tale

Canine adventurer Wandi the dingo will make an online appearance with Melton library this month.

Known as the dingo who was taken by an eagle and dropped into a backyard, Wandi was the inspiration for a popular new junior fiction novel by award-winning author Favel Parrett.

The two will celebrate the launch of Parrett’s book, Wandi, via a special online event for the Melton community.

Also featured during the session will be friends from the Dingo Discovery Sanctuary in Toolern Vale where Parrett is a volunteer and also where Wandi lives.

Mayor Goran Kesic encouraged young readers to join the special event.

“Wandi the dingo is a much-loved City of Melton resident and this is a great chance to meet him and learn about his incredible story

of survival,” Cr Kesic said.

“I know many young readers and animal lovers will enjoy reading Wandi’s story and hearing from award-winning author Favel Parrett. I’d encourage you all to join this special online event.”

The official launch of Wandi will be live streamed via the Melton City Libraries Facebook page on Saturday, November 20 at 11am.

Two prize packs will be awarded for the best book review and best drawing of Wandi.

Details: melton.vic.gov.au/wandi

Sarah Oliver



Wandi the dingo (Supplied)

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‘State of the art’ indoor stadium

By Sarah Oliver

A new indoor stadium in Cobblebank is now complete and basketball games will be contested on the courts for the first time this Saturday.

The \$31 million stadium is Melton council’s highest value project to date. Construction began in March 2020.

As a multi-purpose community facility, the stadium has six courts and will cater to basketball, netball, badminton, table tennis, and volleyball, as well as school and

community health and wellness programs.

The building is designed to be sustainable and maximises natural light, minimises energy consumption, uses environmentally sustainable materials, and is powered by a 100 per cent renewable energy supply.

Mayor Goran Kesic said it was an exciting milestone to see the stadium complete.

“Cobblebank Indoor Stadium is open! It’s a very exciting moment for our sporting community and for council to see this spectacular facility complete,” Cr Kesic said.

“It’s a fantastic feeling knowing that

community groups and sporting clubs are going to bring a hive of activity to this outstanding space.

“Demand for sporting facilities is growing and we’re proud to support our active community in their sporting endeavours.

“This is our highest value project ever and I’m so pleased to celebrate its completion with our community.”

A community open day will be held early next year, giving the wider community an opportunity to take a closer look at the stadium.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3n7SCVh>



Mayor Goran Kesic with kids outside new stadium in Cobblebank. (Supplied) 257795

Art therapy helps fight off the blues

For Manuel Sison, art became his way of coping with anxiety and depression.

After a tough break-up a couple of years ago, Sison, who was a graphic designer, decided to turn to art to help him deal with his emotions.

Since then art has continued to help him through the tough times.

“I used art to process after the break up,” he said.

“It has definitely really been a good outlet. It has been good to deal with the pressures and negative emotions.”

The Brimbank resident is part of a new exhibition that is being run by the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN).

Artists with lived experience of mental health challenges have been commissioned to produce stunning works for a new “art bombing” campaign around Brimbank and Melton to draw attention to the reality of suicide and suicidal thinking.

The aim it to change perceptions around this difficult but critically important subject by exploring skilled and deeply personal explorations of trauma and recovery.

Sison was forwarded the project through a former boss and thought it was a good opportunity to make more meaningful art for a good cause.

He has created six pieces for the project, colourful and thought-provoking 3D illustrations that reflect on his own experiences with mental health challenges.

The leader of NWMPHN’s suicide prevention team, Jackie Ceratti, said Sison and his fellow artists provided vital insight into a very challenging and complex area of health and welfare.

The launch of the project is this Tuesday at Sydenham Library, Watergardens Shopping Centre.

If you or anyone you know is in need of support, contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.



Manuel Sison with examples of his art. (Supplied)

Top water in Blackwood

The township of Blackwood in Moorabool is in the running for the best-tasting tap water in Australia.

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) will host the Ixom 2021 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition this month.

WIOA chief operations officer Craig Mathisen said the competition is a way to recognise and acknowledge the people and organisations who make sure their community is supplied with safe drinking water.

“We want to use the competition to let people know the great work that is going on in local communities around Australia and help shape and secure Australia’s water future,” he said.

Water authorities from various regional and metropolitan areas will participate in state heats with a blind taste test where water samples will be judged on qualities like colour, clarity, odour and mouthfeel.

The “top drop” from each state will be announced next Tuesday, November 16 before the state winners compete for the top prize in Tasmania.

The winner of the competition will go on to represent Australia at the annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition held in West Virginia, USA.

Ixom, who is sponsoring the event, has been supplying water treatment chemicals to water plants in Australia for almost a century.

Managing Director and chief executive David Head said Ixom ensures Australia “continues to have world renowned, high quality water,” and is proud to be sponsoring the event.

Details: <https://wioa.org.au/tastetest/>

Sarah Oliver

Plans for the future of Moorabool’s health and wellbeing

A plan aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Moorabool residents has been adopted by council.

The Health and Wellbeing Plan focuses on the next four years and was developed in consultation with the community.

The plan focuses on six key areas: food, mental health, being active, reducing harmful addictions, liveability and safety.

Each key area was developed after thorough consultation with the public, as well as community partners including health, justice and community organisations.

In a statement, mayor Tom Sullivan said that health and wellbeing is at the heart of the Moorabool community.

“This plan has been developed based on

key data, consultation and engagement with local community members, organisations and service providers to ensure that the health of our community remains strong and progressive,” Cr Sullivan said.

“As a growing community, it is imperative that council develops a plan that reflects the current challenges faced by our community, particularly given the stress that the global COVID-19 pandemic has placed on individuals and families.”

‘The food we eat’ area refers to the consumption of food in the community, reducing foods such as sugary drinks, and increasing education surrounding healthy eating habits.

‘Healthy minds’ was seen as a high priority

area and will include developing youth mental health and social connection, service gaps, accessibility, and advocacy and inclusiveness for diverse communities.

The third key area of ‘being active’ will involve increased physical activity for all ages, more opportunities for women and girls to be active, provide safety and increase accessibility for participation in physical activity and promote active travel.

‘Reducing harmful addictions’ will mostly focus on awareness, education and advocacy about addictions, as well as enforcement related to tobacco and policy development regarding gambling.

For ‘liveability’, the plan will endeavour to advocate and raise awareness to

improve community resilience to extreme weather events and enable people to live environmentally consciously.

Including strategies to prevent violence and promote gender equality fall under the key area of ‘keeping ourselves safe’.

Implementation of the plan will be undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee.

Details: www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/health-wellbeing-plan

Sarah Oliver

Kesic shares vision for Melton

By Sarah Oliver

New mayor Goran Kesic wants to make sure Melton is an area of opportunity and growth. The city is one of Australia's fastest growing areas with the need for new and upgraded infrastructure to keep up with demand, he said. "There is so much infrastructure that our city needs so I'll be focusing on how we can work together with the state and federal governments on major projects," Cr Kesic said. Those projects include upgrades to the western and Melton highways, electrifying the Melton line and the final delivery of Melton hospital. Cr Kesic, who was elected to lead the

council last week, also said job creation is at the top of his priority list. "I want to ensure that the City of Melton is a place people aspire to live and work – raise their families. So job creation is really important to our residents and will be the key to a more liveable future. "The major investment we're advocating for will make a big difference to attract commercial investments and help create thousands of local jobs." Cr Kesic said he was "delighted" when his fellow council members voted to elect him as mayor. "I'm really looking forward to representing the community as mayor and working

together with the councillors," he said. As deputy mayor, Cr Kesic said taking on responsibilities of that role "was a great foundation for stepping up to my own mayoral duties." Former mayor Lara Carli replaces Cr Kesic as deputy mayor. "I think we'll be able to support each other strongly in our roles to represent our community. She's a great councillor and a great person to learn from," Cr Kesic said. He also said he is thankful to Cr Kathy Majdlik "for her hard work and dedication to the community in her term as the mayor over the last 12 months."



Supplied

New children's centre under way for Mt Atkinson

Melton council has appointed a contractor to begin developing a new children's and community centre in Mt Atkinson. The Mt Atkinson Children's and Community Centre is projected to cost \$7.5 million and will provide space for three-and-four-year-old kindergarten and maternal and child health services. The centre will also provide space for community meetings and activities. Mayor Goran Kesic said the facility would be a welcome addition for the Mt Atkinson community. "This centre will help meet the needs of the rapidly growing Mt Atkinson and Tarneit Plains community which is set to grow to more than 30,000 people," Cr Kesic said. The project is in partnership with the Victorian government whoich is helping

to fund the centre with \$2 million from the state's Building Blocks grants and \$800,000 from the Growing Suburbs Fund. Council has committed \$4.7 million to the project. "It will provide a welcoming place for children to attend kindergarten, for families to access maternal and child health services, and for community groups to gather," Cr Kesic said. "It's a key part of a well-planned hub of activity with a future primary school and a recreation reserve planned nearby. "I look forward to seeing the community enjoy and make the most of this important facility." Construction is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.



Artist's impression of the Mt Atkinson Children's and Community Centre. (Supplied) 257832

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Star Weekly seeks an enthusiastic sales executive to work across our print, digital, social and online platforms.

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2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Authorised by
Philip Wright

Talking to help prevent scams

By Sarah Oliver

Melton and Moorabool residents are being urged to protect themselves and their families from financial scams as part of a new Crime Stoppers Victoria campaign.

The ‘Let’s Talk Scams’ campaign was launched as part of national Scams Awareness Week, which run until Friday, November 12.

The campaign is designed to prevent the public from falling victim to financial scams, also known as investment scams.

These scams promise victims big payouts, fast money or guaranteed returns only to trick them into handing over their money.

Financial scams have cost Australians \$114

million just this year of which Victorian losses represent \$30 million.

It’s predicted that by the end of 2021, losses to financial scams Australia-wide will have more than doubled last year’s figure.

People aged over 65 are most likely to fall victim to financial scams.

Crime Stoppers Victoria chief executive Stella Smith said: “Scammers will target older people because they are less likely to tell anyone. That’s why talking with your parents and grandparents is an important step in scam prevention.

“We don’t want people to feel embarrassed about being scammed. Talking about scams helps raise awareness among friends and

family – it’s about shaming the scammer, not the victim.”

Chinese, Vietnamese, Burmese, and Sri Lankan communities have also been disproportionately affected with scammers going after people whose English is their second language, Crime Stoppers said.

Scammers use a series of methods to target victims, including unsolicited phone calls, text messages, emails and social media messages

Financial scams are often disguised within financial trends like cryptocurrency, celebrity endorsements and superannuation.

Chief information officer at BankVic, Scott Wall, said it was important potential investors do their own research and consider seeking

professional advice before handing over any money.

“The idea that you can make a lot of money with very little risk seems extremely appealing. “But people need to remember, if an investment opportunity or offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.”

Crime Stoppers Victoria has teamed up with Victoria Police and BankVic to produce a podcast titled ‘Let’s Talk Scams’ to raise awareness and give information about scams.

Residents are urged to contact their bank immediately and make a report to Scamwatch at scamwatch.gov.au if they have been scammed or suspect they may have been targeted by scammers.



Kmart team member Kerry Healy with the wishing tree. (Damjan Janevski) 255491_02

Embrace the festive spirit of giving

Kmart in Woodgrove shopping centre is launching its wishing tree appeal in the lead up to Christmas.

For the past 35 years, the Salvation Army has worked with Kmart stores across the nation to raise funds and accept donated gifts for people in need.

Kmart Melton operations manager Liana Boros said the appeal has raised more than eight million gifts to those in need “thanks to the incredible generosity of the Australian community”.

“This aims to create a brighter Christmas for

all families in the community,” Ms Boros said.

In 2020, the appeal collected more than 250,000 gifts and raised over \$360,000.

Money can be donated online or in stores, and the donations left under the wishing trees will go to families and kids who would otherwise go without.

This year there is also an express drop off point located at the front of stores for customers who don’t want to enter the stores.

The Wishing Tree Appeal is run in partnership with the Salvation Army . A Salvation Army spokesperson said that despite

the pandemic leaving many experiencing severe financial hardship, they hope people will be compelled to give.

“This year’s message is ‘small gift, big heart’, where Aussies are encouraged to give what they can, however big or small,” the representative said.

Details: <https://www.kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree>

Sarah Oliver



Teens charged with armed robberies

Four teens have been arrested over a series of alleged armed robberies and aggravated home invasions.

Police said a 16-year-old Brookfield boy was facing a number of charges including aggravated burglary, theft of a motor vehicle, handling stolen goods, armed robbery and committing an indictable offence while on bail.

He was remanded in custody to face court on November 11.

A 15-year-old Kurunjang boy was charged with robbery, intentionally causing injury, theft of a motor vehicle, affray and committing an indictable offence while on bail, police said.

In a statement, police said an application had been made to have the boy remanded in custody.

A 16-year-old boy from Brookfield was charged with a number of offences, including two counts of armed robbery, affray, indictable assault police and committing an indictable offence while on bail. Police said they also made an application to have remanded in custody.

A 19-year-old man from Melton was charged with robbery, affray, unlawful assault, theft, criminal damage and assault with a weapon. Police have made an application to have him remanded in custody.

Sarah Oliver

New opportunities for young people to safely connect

VicHealth will partner with organisations across the state to deliver more than 100,000 new opportunities for young people to socially and safely connect in the next two years.

The Big Connect – the first investment of VicHealth’s ground-breaking Future Healthy initiative – will support the mental wellbeing of young people, by creating opportunities for them to reconnect with their friends, families and communities in ways that work for them.

A range of Victorian organisations will have the opportunity to partner with VicHealth, including those from from sports,

active recreation, arts, cultural, youth, health promotion and community food sectors.

The new investment comes as a VicHealth survey revealed more than one in three young people in Victoria feel like they don’t fit in with their local community or neighbourhood.

The survey also found that among Victoria’s 18-to-25-year-olds, four in five haven’t been able to spend as much time with friends as they would like during the pandemic, while a similar number of those surveyed recognised that being socially connected is important for their mental wellbeing.

The survey also found the majority of parents were concerned about the pandemic’s impact on their child’s ability to connect with friends and said opportunities to socially connect with others in their local neighbourhood had an impact on their child enjoying good health.

VicHealth chief executive Sandro Demaio said The Big Connect will fund inclusive projects that are co-designed with young people and families right across Victoria, in response to what they want and need.

“Our survey shows that young people want and need more spaces where they can

feel a sense of belonging and connection with others, particularly as we emerge from coronavirus restrictions,” Dr Demaio said.

“Young people, parents and carers know that connecting meaningfully with others is important for good health, and there’s plenty of evidence to support this. Research shows that building and maintaining meaningful social connections helps children, young people and their families boost their mental wellbeing, while reducing their likelihood of developing longer term ill-health.”

Tara Murray

Call for growth areas minister

By Sarah Oliver

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) has revealed its key election priorities ahead of the next federal election.

The priorities aim to close the growing infrastructure gap many outer metropolitan areas face, including Melton.

According to new research, the underestimation of potential population in growth areas has created mounting economic, mental health and infrastructure issues in Australia's fastest growing communities.

The NGAA commissioned over 80,000 interviews with outer suburban residents.

NGAA chief executive Bronwen Clark said those interviews painted a picture of communities consistently overlooked by the

government.

"Our outer suburbs are home to the most essential workers and faced the strictest lockdowns. These are the communities that saw us through the pandemic and to date governments have failed to understand their needs," she said.

"Now, governments must join the dots between high COVID rates, high outbreak risk factors and the lag in social infrastructure in fast growing outer suburbs."

Ms Clark said the government should start with appointing a dedicated minister for growth areas which would help deliver infrastructure, jobs and housing to outer suburban communities.

The research found that following the pandemic, one in five (or 21 per cent) outer

suburbs residents reported that they are living in 'financial survival mode'.

More than half of residents are struggling to pay at least one bill, particularly energy, groceries, rent and personal loans, of which 64 per cent are under 40.

Ms Clark said to address the financial stress, there should be greater access to local jobs.

The research found residents were more likely to feel stressed, frustrated and anxious than the national average.

Ms Clark said revitalising job opportunities may also help alleviate the looming problem of mental health issues in growth areas.

Less than half of the growth area residents accessed mental health support in the last 12 months.

"This is fuelled by a lack of mental health

services, with caseloads of some growth area providers being twice the national average," Ms Clark said.

Ms Clark said soaring house prices and a record rise in land sales in recent years has been due to Australians "flocking to the outer suburbs to live the Australian dream of home ownership".

"Growth areas are home to vibrant communities that are growing twice as fast as the rest of the country.

"COVID-19 has shown that Australia's economic prosperity depends heavily on our vast growth areas workforce," Ms Clark said.

"It's now critical that a Minister for Growth Areas be appointed to lead an urgent national response to growth area inequities and COVID-19 recovery."



From left: Melton councillor Bob Turner, Melton MP Steve McGhie, St Catherine's and St Dominic's, Melton parish priest, Father Michael Moody, Catholic Regional College Melton principal Marlene Jorgensen and St Anthony of Padua, Melton South, and St Bernard of Clairvaux, Bacchus Marsh, parish priest, Father Fabian Smith (Supplied)

Sod turned on new Catholic campus

A groundbreaking ceremony was held last week at the site of a new campus for Catholic Regional College Melton in Cobblebank.

Expected to open in 2023 for a smaller number of students, the campus is expected to eventually cater for 1500 year seven to 12 students and be completed by 2028.

First stages of the project will begin in January 2022 and cost an initial \$23 million, with the 7.1 hectare site expected to be ready for 150 year seven students in 2023.

Melton MP Steve McGhie attended the

groundbreaking ceremony, with principal Marlene Jorgensen who said the school would offer new facilities and educational opportunities for the growing population in Melbourne's north-west corridor.

"Continued population growth has put considerable pressure on enrolments at the college," Mrs Jorgensen said.

"The exciting development of Cobblebank campus will see our established wellbeing and learning structures offered in a new contemporary educational space.

"We are thrilled to offer our programs to the growing community in Melton South and nurture graduates who are successful lifelong learners, confident and creative individuals and active, informed citizens."

Designed by Baldasso Cortese architects, the \$66 million college will be built in three stages over the next seven years.

Sarah Oliver

High COVID cases in Melton

Melton is currently in the top 10 local government areas with the most COVID cases, despite high vaccination rates.

There are 863 active cases in the area as of Sunday.

It comes as a pop-up testing site in Ballan was opened last week to accommodate increased demand.

Neighbouring areas Brimbank, Hume, Wyndham and Whittlesea are also at the top of the list.

As of Monday, 86.8 per cent of Melton residents have received two doses and more than 95 per cent have had one jab.

The state government announced today \$2.5 million for community programs that remove practical barriers to vaccination and support increased vaccine uptake.

The program assists Victorians from vulnerable groups, such as people living with disability, young people, seniors, multicultural communities, social housing residents and victim survivors of family violence.

Multicultural Affairs and Youth Minister Ros Spence said the funding "will help overcome the barriers some Victorians face to getting vaccinated."

Victoria is now at 87.3 per cent fully vaccinated, meaning the state is well on its way to reaching 90 per cent.

Once that target is met, predicted to be on or before 24 November, many restrictions will be eased for Victorians, including no caps at certain venues, masks only in high risk settings and major events allowed.

Sarah Oliver

Former minister Wade Noonan joins Victoria University

Former Williamstown MP and state government minister Wade Noonan has been appointed to a key strategic role at Victoria University.

Last Wednesday, Mr Noonan was announced as VU's new deputy vice-chancellor external relations and partnerships, a role he said will combine his advocacy for the western suburbs with the chance to directly contribute to VU's vision and future.

"I'm passionate about the west and ambitious about how VU can help shape its future," he said.

"To be joining VU at a critical time of its growth and transformation is hugely exciting."

Mr Noonan said the university sits well

poised to deliver "campuses of the future" built on ethical values and conscious partnering.

"To do this well will require deeper alliances with like-minded industry partners and the delivery of the 'flipped campus' model brings smart and creative minds together," he said.

Mr Noonan served as the member for the state seat of Williamstown from 2007 to 2018 and became a minister in the first term of the Andrews government in 2014.

He has recently served as executive director of the West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance (WoMEDA), playing a role in developing a 20-year blueprint for Melbourne's North and West City Deal.

Vice-chancellor Adam Shoemaker said Mr

Noonan's appointment would strengthen the university's ambitious strategic endeavours.

"Wade's energy and leadership will be a fantastic asset as the university develops deeper and meaningful partnerships and alignment with industry," Professor Shoemaker said.

"With a career defined by bringing together government, business and community groups for social good, Wade is well equipped to lead our 'flipped campus' approach that brings complementary industries onto and into our campuses to enhance employment prospects for our students."

Benjamin Millar



Wade Noonan. (Supplied)



The Sunshine West warehouse. (Supplied)

Record parcel deliveries

By Tara Murray

The Sunshine West Parcel Delivery Centre has processed nearly 27 million parcels in its first year of operation.

The centre celebrates its first anniversary milestone this month, after a year like no other.

With a record number of parcels processed, restrictions and staff having to quarantine, it has been non-stop for the centre.

The 28,500 square metre site is capable of processing more than 100,000 parcels a day and is the biggest in the state.

There are more than 200-plus parcel delivery vans operating out of the site, delivering an average of 50,000 parcels per day across more

than 48 postcodes in Melbourne’s west.

Of the parcels processed in the past year, one million of them have been processed manually.

There are about 1000 team members, many of them Brimbank residents, working at the facility across processing, parcel delivery, van services, transport and support teams.

Centre processing manager Katrina Eishold said he been an incredibly challenging 12 months.

“The last 12 months have been some of the busiest and most challenging for Australia Post – and particularly for our team here at Sunshine West,” she said.

“I couldn’t be prouder of our team and the way they’ve worked together to process

record numbers of parcels and deliver for our customers in Melbourne’s west.”

There will be no letting up for staff, with the Christmas period getting under way.

Australia Post business and government executive general manager Gary Starr said preparations for the peak season were already well under way, including recruiting a record more than 4000 Christmas casual team members.

“We’re seeing record parcel volumes with more than 5.9 million households shopping online a month – that’s more than half of all Australian households, and it’s showing no signs of slowing as we head into the online sales season and Christmas,” Mr Starr said.

Animal neglect still a concern

Neglect continues to be the biggest animal welfare issue across Victoria, including in Melton according to recent RSPCA Victoria data.

RSPCA Victoria has reported that Melton had the seventh highest number of reports of welfare concerns for animals in the state, with 320 reports lodged in the 2020-21 year. This is a decrease from 2019-20, where 338 reports were lodged.

RSPCA Victoria’s chief inspector Michael Stagg said the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and reports of mistreatment of animals was “really concerning”.

“The correlation between lockdowns and an increase in reports of animal beating and wounding is a really concerning trend,” Mr Stagg said.

“COVID has created a significant amount of pressure on people.

“When there is financial stress, mental health or drug and alcohol issues, animal cruelty and neglect tends to increase.

“It is also possible that reports have increased due to people being at home for longer periods.”

Mr Stagg said it was important for people who were considering adopting a pet – or who had done so over the COVID-19 period – to do their homework before taking on the responsibility.

“With the high number of people adopting or taking on pets during COVID, it’s vital that people understand how to look after their pet and what good welfare looks like,” he said.

“Research what your pet needs in terms of food, shelter, grooming, exercise, training, vet care and companionship and if you’re not sure, give us a call. We always prefer to help prevent welfare issues, than be called up when it’s too late.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Star Weekly looks back through the pages of our predecessors



30 years ago
November 13, 1991

Latest statistics showed a 154 per cent rise in Melton’s jobless but the Premier, Ms Kirner, advocated a positive view when she visited last week, saying she wanted to “encourage Victorians to have a view of the future.”



20 years ago
November 20, 2001

The elderly and disabled are the big losers due to a lack of funding by the Federal Government for home care services in Moorabool. Bacchus Marsh councillor Marie Gosnold spoke out on the issue last week as the shire put forward a plan to obtain extra funding to increase home care services.



15 years ago
November 14, 2006

Thousands of enthusiastic spectators lined Melton’s High Street for Saturday’s Djerriwarh Festival parade, the biggest for eight years. With a crowd of more than 20,000, 7 floats and 1300 children taking part, this year’s parade was a huge success, Melton Council’s Adam Boyle said yesterday.



10 years ago
November 15, 2011

Street cars they desire. Rev heads satisfy their need for speed.



Connor Pain can't wait for the A-League season to get under way. (Supplied)

United's ready and raring to go

After the “longest pre-season in the world” Western United will take to the pitch at Geelong’s GMHBA Stadium this Saturday to kick start the 2021-22 A-League season. Tara Murray spoke with new coach John Aloisi and player Connor Pain ahead of the big match against Melbourne Victory.

After another off-season full of lockdowns and restrictions, Western United’s Connor Pain can’t wait to take to the field this weekend.

Pain and his teammates will kick off their A-League season against Melbourne Victory.

Pain admits that the off-season was just as much a mental battle as one of trying to stay in shape and ready for the season.

“It’s probably been the longest pre-season in the world,” he said.

“The season creeping up now it’s obviously exciting to get everything started.

“Aside from friendlies and stuff, it would have been four to five months, it felt like a long time.

“The training is great and all that, but we play for a reason and we can’t wait to get back into competitive games.”

For Pain, who is one of the club’s original players, this pre-season has been slightly different.

With a new coach in John Aloisi and a number of new players, there has been plenty of excitement on the track.

It’s the first time Pain has worked with Aloisi.

“It has been great, it has been obviously intense, good to have some new ideas around the place and some new faces, not just in the coaching department,” Pain said.

“It has been an interesting change, but it has been good so far and we’re just looking to implement what we are working on.

“It’s been really good and really positive. There are obviously really high standards in the camp and I can’t say a bad word about him so far.”



John Aloisi says fans can expect a new style on the pitch this year. (Supplied)

Pain said the group could see some of the magic that the new international players could produce.

He said they had all integrated seamlessly.

“It has been an odd one with COVID and getting all the foreigners here, [I] only really met a couple of them in the last week or two,” he said.

“All of them in their own way have shown something. It’s a good mixture and range of positions and they’re only going to add to the good group of Aussies we have.”

Pain isn’t the only one itching for the season to begin, with Aloisi keen to get his United

coaching career under way.

The former Australian star said he didn’t realise how much he missed coaching until he hit the training track.

“You realise how much you miss it when you get back in,” he said.

“Finally back on the grass again, I have really enjoyed it. It gives you that energy again.

“When you miss it, you reflect on things. The energy is there which is good from my part, excited to be back on the pitch.”

Aloisi said he had been impressed by the whole playing group and how they had attacked the pre-season.

It hadn’t been an easy one, with some players saying it was the hardest pre-season they had been through, he said.

“The boys have really taken on board what we are trying to do as a team and club,” he said.

“They’ve been working really hard, which is the most important thing. The buy-in of the players has been exceptional, as a coach it makes your job so much easier and it actually helps the younger players get back to the level.

“Everyone in general has been working really well from the younger players to the older players. They’ve all worked really hard, and we’ve trained hard and for a lot of them it’s the hardest pre-season.

“They’ve done the most important thing I look at, everyone has different talents but in terms of work ethic you look for, all of the players have shown they are willing to work and work for each other, that helps the team bond as well.”

While Aloisi had been impressed with the whole squad, he said players such as Dylan

Pierias and Lachlan Wales had really benefited from being in the Australian Olympic team

Three other players have just returned from the Olyroos Asian Cup qualifiers.

He said Josh Risdon would also be like a new recruit after an injury-riddled season last year.

Aloisi said the club was still doing some last minute preparations as it looked to fire come the start of the season.

He said the imports were starting to find their feet after hotel quarantine had an early impact.

“They’re a little bit off fitness-wise especially when you’re stuck in hotel quarantine for two weeks,” he said.

“They’ll take a bit of time, we’ll look after them. They’ve had a lot of hard pre-seasons in the past and have a good base, hopefully they’ll be right for round one.”

Aloisi said while there will be plenty of familiar faces on the pitch this season, fans can expect a different style on the pitch.

United will start their season with six matches in Melbourne, which is a bonus for the club and fans, who will be able to return to the stands.

Aloisi said the first six rounds would be exciting for the side.

“We’ve got confidence with the team we’ve got and the structure we’ve got,” he said.

“It’s exciting for the playing group and the public to see live sport again.”

Pain said he can’t wait to see the fans back in the stands.

“It’s a strange thing to say football without fans...”

“We know we have the quality to get up there, the first thing is to crack finals and see what happens after that.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WANT YOUR EVENT LISTED? Community Calendar is made available free of charge to not-for-profit organisations to keep the public informed of special events and activities. Send item details to Star Weekly Community Calendar, Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042, or email to westeditorial@starweekly.com.au by 9am Wednesday the week prior to publication

Christmas trees for sale

This year Caroline Springs Scout Group is selling fresh Christmas trees to celebrate the festive season. All funds raised will go towards activities and equipment for the kids. Tree prices range between \$55 and \$75 dependant on size.
■ trybooking.com/829556 or carolinesprings.christmastrees@gmail.com

Rose Carers Of Maddingley Park

Volunteers meet every Wednesday from 10am -noon at Maddingley Park, corner of Grant and Taverner streets, Bacchus Marsh, to maintain two beautiful rose gardens. New volunteers are always welcome – with or without experience.
■ Elaine Greenhall, 0418 171 119 or 0400 052 857

Zonta club meets

The Zonta Club of Melton meets on the first Monday of each month at Melton Country Club, Reserve Road, Melton.
■ Suzanne, 0417 512 420

Mahjong group

Interested in learning to play Mahjong? U3A Melton has a group who play on Tuesdays at 10am.
■ u3amelton.com or 0419 563 016

First aid courses

Melton South Community Centre offers a number of first aid courses for people wanting to learn or renew these valuable skills. One-day classes are held on Saturdays throughout the year.
■ 9747 8576

Melton Probus Club

The Melton Probus Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Melton Dart Club, 63a Reserve Road, from 9.45am. New members and visitors are most welcome.
■ 9746 0271

Singing group

Join the Melton South Community Singers at the Melton South Community Centre on the first and third Tuesday of each month.
■ Sue, 0400 082 413

Melton South Knit & Natter

All welcome to join this social crafting group, running at the Melton South Community Centre each Monday from 10am-noon. Bring along any knitting or crochet projects and work on them while sharing tips, learning skills and catching up over a cuppa.
■ 9747 8576

Exploring healthier masculinities

Hume council is hosting a free range of activities to support the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The event will be held from 7-8pm on Wednesday, December 8.
■ <https://bit.ly/3BZtbJG>

Grasslands floating

A community celebration of life, our connections to nature and with one another. Explore culture, art and engagement in native grasslands at this free community event from 9am to 6pm on Sunday, November 21. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required to attend, bookings required by Thursday, November 18.
■ <https://bit.ly/3wr4GUk>

Welcome baby

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged up to six years of age will be welcomed to Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country by a local elder as part of Hume's Welcome Baby to Country ceremony. The ceremony is an acknowledgement of the



Through the lens

This week's photographer's choice picture is of Diwali Festival celebrations.
(Damjan Janevski) 256936_01

local Boorais connection to the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan. The ceremony provides an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate living culture. On Tuesday, November 25, 11am-noon. Registration required.
■ bit.ly/2XOjf7D

Symbiosis exhibition

This stark series of photographs that explore the relationship between a mother and daughter, against deeper themes of death and regeneration in nature is available to view until Saturday, January 15, 2022. The series of images are available to view for free, and are presented by Hume Arts Youth Award 2020 recipient, Filipe Filihia.
■ <https://bit.ly/3BTguQl>

Shrek outdoor cinema

The Music In The Sticks crew is hosting an outdoor cinema that will be screening the movie *Shrek* at Dixon Fields, Gisborne on Friday, November 19. The event will start at 6pm with all ages welcome. All attendees 16 and above must be fully vaccinated as per state government guidelines. Tickets: \$2 per person.
■ 5422 0333

Live music in Macedon

Macedon Railway Hotel will welcome back guests to Annie Hall next year with gigs booked from January through to May. Head to the hotel's website to secure your spot.
■ macedonrailwayhotel.com.au/live-shows

Shay Downer exhibit

This exhibition will feature the work of Sunbury artist Shay Downer, who teaches drawing classes in the community. As a previous Hume Arts Award recipient, this exhibition will explore the art form of portraiture and will run from Monday, November 22 to Sunday, January 30 at the Sunbury Hume Global Learning Centre Gallery.
■ 9205 2200

Toastmasters meeting

Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Toastmasters helps its members develop their public speaking, communication and leadership skills. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from

7.20-9.30pm, at the Sunbury Senior Citizens Hall.
■ vpm-4185@toastmastersclubs.org

Sewing group

The Sunbury Neighbourhood House Social Sewing Group meets on the first Saturday of each month to chat, share ideas and sew. Beginners through experienced welcome. Sunbury Neighbourhood House, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury 12.30-3.30pm.

Garden club

The Sunbury Garden Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month. There is a guest speaker at each meeting, which starts at 7.30pm at the Sunbury Football Club.
■ Cheryl, 9744 1663

Senior citizens club

Senior citizens are welcome to visit the Sunbury Senior Citizens' Club on Mondays and Fridays, from 10am-3pm at 8 O'Shannassy Street. A variety of activities offered – carpet bowls, cards, snooker, darts, board games or just a cup of coffee and a chat. Lunch subsidised. If you're over 55 years of age and would like to meet new people, come along.
■ Frank, 0423 392 884

Connect with nature

Come along to this free community event at the Sunbury Global Learning Centre, to be nourished with ideas about how we can all deepen our connection to nature and with each other, while appreciating our precious native grasslands. The event will run 9am-4pm on Sunday, November 21. Bookings required.
■ melissado@hume.vic.gov.au

Female cricket

Burnside Springs United is looking for players for its women's program for the upcoming North West Metropolitan Cricket Association season. A friendly and welcoming environment, the club welcomes all abilities and ages. The side trains on Thursday nights and plays on Sundays.
■ ow.ly/WRGg50GCxRc

Deer Park probus

The Deer Park Combined Probus Club meets on the second Wednesday of each

month at The Deer Park Club, 780 Ballarat Road, from 10am. New members and visitors are welcome.
■ Don, 0409 191 580

Sunshine United Cricket Club

Selwyn Park-based Sunshine United Cricket Club is looking for junior boys and girls to play in its under-11s, under-13s Friday night and under-15s Saturday morning teams. Juniors learn and enjoy the fundamentals of cricket, taught by experienced coaches.
■ Terry Nichols, 0418 392 180

Be connected

Brimbank residents over the age of 50 are encouraged to complete two Be Connected beginner online courses for their chance to win a grocery voucher. A Be Connected short online course can help you learn the basics such as using a mouse, setting up and understanding the functions of an iPhone or Android phone, avoiding scams, connecting with others, or sending an email. The competition runs to December 1.
■ library@brimbank.vic.gov.au

BinGO MOVE

BinGO MOVE is a social exercise group which meets every Monday at 11am. It involves a fun interactive game where bingo numbers trigger an exercise or dance move. Activity suits all levels of ability, you can do seated or standing as suits. Currently running via Zoom, IPC Health will also offer face-to-face groups in Hoppers Crossing, when restrictions permit.
■ 8734 1400

Volunteers needed

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Community Visitors Scheme is seeking female Maltese and Italian-speaking volunteers to join its volunteer program within the Werribee and Point Cook areas to visit elderly residents in either an aged care facility or their own home. The scheme is also seeking a female volunteer with an understanding of MS to visit a mature lady in an aged care facility in Altona Meadows.
■ Sue, volunteer@ms.org.au or 9845 2744

Mouth organ band

Yarraville Mouth Organ Band meets Fridays at 203 Williamstown Road, Yarraville.
■ Heather, 9399 2190

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PUZZLES

SUDOKU No.055

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

easy

		3		1				
6	8		7					
9				4	2	3	6	
	3	6	1		9			7
	9						8	
2			3		8	6	9	
	7	8	5	9				6
					3		5	4
				2		9		

medium

	7	8		4				
1				6				
						3	4	1
6			9				5	
	5	2				7	6	
	3				2			8
7	9	6						
				9				7
				1		6	2	

hard

			4	8		6		
		6			7			
	4			6			5	
		7					6	5
	1			3			9	
5	8					2		
	9		7					1
			2			7		
		2		1	9			

easy medium hard

8	1	6	7	2	4	7	9	3	6
4	5	9	8	9	6	2	7	1	1
9	8	2	1	6	9	8	7	4	7
1	6	9	7	8	4	7	2	5	2
8	8	9	4	9	2	1	6	7	7
2	7	4	6	9	1	9	8	8	8
9	9	8	2	4	8	7	1	6	9
6	4	1	9	8	7	2	8	9	9
2	7	8	9	1	6	8	4	9	5

6	2	9	3	1	7	1	8	4	8
7	8	5	9	6	4	8	3	2	1
4	8	1	9	2	8	9	6	7	7
8	1	6	2	9	7	4	3	4	4
8	9	7	4	8	1	1	2	9	6
2	9	7	4	7	8	6	1	8	9
1	4	8	7	8	7	2	6	9	9
9	7	8	6	9	8	4	7	1	2
9	6	2	1	1	4	9	8	7	8

6	7	2	2	1	9	5	4	3	8
4	9	1	2	5	3	7	8	1	2
1	2	3	8	4	9	9	6	8	8
4	3	4	7	1	2	1	2	2	4
7	6	1	4	5	8	3	8	1	9
1	4	8	7	9	4	7	1	6	5
5	8	9	6	9	2	1	6	9	5
8	4	8	7	4	8	7	1	6	9
1	5	6	9	3	6	9	5	8	2
7	9	5	8	4	3	2	6	1	8

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QUICK CROSSWORD No.055

ACROSS

1 Those who murder important persons (9)

6 Needy (4)

10 Belly (colloq) (3)

11 Connected with (11)

12 Powerful (8)

13 Amenable (6)

14 Head cook (4)

15 Permits (7)

20 Country in Horn of Africa (7)

21 Light ring (4)

25 Peninsula in SW Asia (6)

26 Sycophant (8)

28 Between two races (11)

29 Amiss (3)

30 Crusted sore (4)

31 Relating to the body (9)

4 Disease caused by common virus (9)

5 Preservative (4)

7 Egyptian god of the afterlife (6)

8 Give up (6)

9 Blade affixed to firearm (7)

16 British military rank (9)

17 Slim dagger (7)

18 A male voice (8)

19 Potent (8)

22 ABC's (6)

23 US celebrity chef, — Stewart (6)

24 Email address identifier (4,2)

27 Fashion designer, — Jacobs (4)

DOWN

1 Crafty trick (8)

2 English county (8)

3 Closed up (6)

DECODER No.055

22	20	14	13	1		9	8	7	14	21	9	19
23		1		23		7		8		17		24
8	7	22	24	B	23	8		20	7	13	23	8
12		22				4		22		23		14
12	8	19	1	23		24	10	18	8	20	14	13
8			24		14		8		D			
23	24	3	21	2	24		1	B	11	24	3	13
	1		23		16		7					1
2	8	6	7	1	6	8		24	5	20	21	2
7		24		B		7				17		7
8	1	23	13	8		23	24	5	20	21	23	24
15		24		13		20		20		13		14
8	D	D	23	24	14	14		8	B	19	14	14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
										B	D	

6	2	9	3	1	7	1	8	4	8
7	8	5	9	6	4	8	3	2	1
4	8	1	9	2	8	9	6	7	7
8	1	6	2	9	7	4	3	4	4
8	9	7	4	8	1	1	2	9	6
2	9	7	4	7	8	6	1	8	9
1	4	8	7	8	7	2	6	9	9
9	7	8	6	9	8	4	7	1	2
9	6	2	1	1	4	9	8	7	8

9-LETTER WORD

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".

Today's Aim:
24 words: Good
36 words: Very good
48 words: Excellent

UNDRÉSSED, used, user, uses
sunder, sundered, sunders, surd, sure, udder, under, undress,
rundesness, runed, runes, runu, sunu, sunu, sudded, undress,
eunred, nund, nunders, reuses, reuses, reuses, reuses, reuses,
eundres, eundred, eundres, eundres, eundres, eundres, eundres,
eundred, eundred, eundred, eundred, eundred, eundred, eundred,

WORDFIT No.055

3 LETTERS

ANT
ASH
AXE
BEE
CAT
COT
DNA
DYE
EAR
EGO
EKE
ERR
GAL
GEE
HEM
LYE
MIX
NIL
NIP
NIT
PEG
PRO
RAP
REV
SAD
WON

5 LETTERS

ALGAE
ANGST
ARISE
AUTOS
CARRY
EARLY
EERIE
ELITE
ERASE
ERROR
EXERT
EXILE
FLEES
GOLDS
ICIER
IMAGE

4 LETTERS

BLOT
COMA
EARS
EDIT
FEES
FOES
FOUR
GATE
HOPE
NEWS
ONUS
PUPS
RELY
RIOT
RISE

6 LETTERS

SATIRE
TARTAN

8 LETTERS

ABSTRACT
LINGERIE
PANORAMA
PROPOSAL

10 LETTERS

IMITATIONS
SCEPTICISM

7 LETTERS

ELEGANT
ENTICES

ROAM
TAPS
WILT

ISLAM
LAGER
LEERS
LOCAL
NAVAL
NEARS
NICER
OCEAN
ONSET
POLKA
RASPS
RISEN
RIVAL
SCENE
SEEDY
SEEPS
SHONE
SLEET
SMELL
SPENT
SPICE

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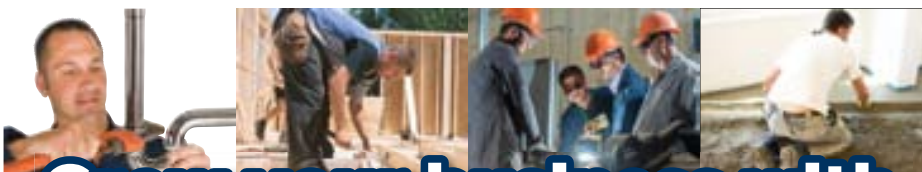


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General Notices

Public Notices and Event



Planning and Environment Act 1987 MELTON PLANNING SCHEME Notice of Approval of Amendment Amendment C170melt

The Minister for Planning has approved Amendment C170melt to the Melton Planning Scheme.

The Amendment comes into operation on the date this notice is published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The Amendment deletes the Development Plan Overlay and associated Schedules from certain areas within the municipality which are now largely developed and where the requirement for this planning control is now considered redundant.

A copy of the Amendment can be inspected, free of charge, at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or by contacting 1800 789 386 to arrange a time to view the Amendment documentation. A copy of the Amendment can also be inspected at the Melton City Council website at www.melton.vic.gov.au/planningschemeamendments and/or, free of charge, during office hours at the offices of the Melton City Council, 232 High Street, Melton.

STUART MENZIES
Director, State Planning Services
Department of Environment, Land,
Water and Planning

Find it in the
Employment
section of Network Classifieds.

General Notices

Public Notices and Event

vodafone

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION WITH 5G AT 533 HIGH ST, MELTON WEST VIC 3337

1. The proposed upgrade to the existing facility on the existing monopole involves:
 - Replacement of three existing panel antennas with three new panel antennas on new mounts; Antennas will measure no more than 2.8m in length
 - Reconfiguration of existing and installation of new ancillary equipment, including Remote Radio Unit's (RRU's), cabling and other items associated with safety and operation of the facility; and
 - Reconfiguration and installation of equipment within the existing equipment shelter
2. Vodafone regard the proposed installation as Low Impact Facility under the *Telecommunications (Low impact facilities) Determination 2018* based on the description above.
3. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Should you require further information or wish to comment, please contact: Jessie Zhao from Nokia Solutions & Networks on 0406 001 832 or at communityrelations.vha@groups.nokia.com by **Tuesday 30 November 2021**. Further information may also be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au/3337001.

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Set your compass on new Jeep

By Derek Ogden, Marque Motoring

The new Compass is out to point the way for Jeep to gain ground in the small sports utility vehicle segment, one of the most competitive markets in the automotive world.

The legendary US four-wheel drive maker, famous for its Rubicon test regimen on the infamous eponymous trail, a 22-mile route, part road and part hellish 4x4 track, in the Sierra Nevada of the western United States, which all genuine off-road Jeeps have to endure during development, has imbued the MY22 Compass with the finer things in SUV life.

As Tom Noble, marketing and communications manager, Jeep Australia puts it, since its launch in 2017, the Compass has been renowned for its off-road capability, now we’re pairing that with advanced technology and premium interior styling.

The updated range kicks off with the Compass Launch Edition 2.4-litre petrol, six-speed automatic, front-wheel drive, with a focus on technology, safety and convenience in an affordable package - \$37,950, plus on-road costs.

The Compass Limited ups the ante with nine-speed auto and four-wheel drive, for \$43,950, followed by the 80th Anniversary (\$47,941), Compass S-Limited (\$46,950) and the Trailhawk 2.0-litre turbodiesel (\$51,250). On test was the Compass S-Limited.

Styling

Although classified in the lightweight (compact) division, on first glance the Compass could well tip the scales into the middleweight class, such is the muscled body.

The wagon maintains the traditional Jeep upright stance, restyled with sculpted surfaces and 3-D effect added to the seven-slot grille. The once separate foglamp housing is now integrated into a single opening in the front bumper.

The black-based S-Limited test car was accented with metallic grey finishes on roof, exterior badging and new Granite Crystal multi-spoke 19-inch alloy wheels. Termed Neutral Grey by the maker, blink and you’ll miss them. Neutral, indeed.

Interior

Jeep’s genuine go-anywhere mid-range off-roaders, not generally known for their stylish, premium craftsman-like cabin interiors, have taken a turn for the better with the new Compass S-Limited.

Many elements of the cabin have been updated with special attention being given to the dashboard, centre console and door panels, all featuring quality materials.

Added to this in the test vehicle were black headliner and grey accent stitching in keeping with the striking exterior. The controls are integrated and easy to reach, as is the touchscreen, which has been elevated to the top of the dash.

Storage has been expanded, with 5 litres of space situated under the centre armrest. There’s an extra 2.4 litres next to the gearshift able to take a small tablet or the like.

The boot chips in with a massive 438 litres of luggage space. Access is via a new automatic tailgate, which can be opened by making a kicking motion under the bumper. Options intended to spoil the new owner include dual pane panoramic sun roof, ventilated and heated front seats, plus heated steering wheel and surround-view 360-degree camera.

Infotainment

The new Compass makes use of the new-generation Jeep Uconnect 5 system, based on a 10.1-inch digital touchscreen with access to music, apps, seat position, mirror angles and climate comfort levels, and frequent destinations, plus a ‘Valet’ mode.

Wireless integration comes via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, customisable one-touch operation home page, TomTom navigation with voice recognition and Alpine nine-speaker Premium audio.

A new Ultra HD 10.25-inch instrument



The new Jeep Compass pushes the boundary (literally) of a compact SUV with its exterior dimensions. (Pictures: Supplied)

AT A GLANCE
MODEL LINE-UP
Compass Launch Edition petrol 6sp auto FWD
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Compass Limited petrol 9sp auto 4x4
\$43,950
Compass 80th Anniversary petrol 9sp auto 4x4
\$47,941
Compass S-Limited petrol 9sp auto 4x4
\$46,950
Compass Trailhawk diesel 9sp auto 4x4
\$51,250

Note: These prices do not include government or dealer delivery charges. Contact your local Toyota dealer for drive-away prices.

cluster is standard on Limited, S-Limited and Trailhawk.

Engines / Transmissions

The new Compass S-Limited relies on Jeep’s tried and tested 2.4-litre Tigershark petrol engine, mated with a new nine-speed automatic transmission and Jeep Active Drive 4x4 and Selec-Terrain off-road systems.

Safety

Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, standard on new Compass includes traffic sign recognition, intelligent speed assist, drowsy driver alert and automatic emergency braking with pedestrian and cyclist recognition.

Forward collision warning, lane sense departure warning, electronic stability control with electronic roll mitigation, plus front, side and curtain airbags are carried over from the previous generation.

Driving

The Compass S-Limited 2.4-litre four-cylinder petrol engine went about a not-too-demanding workload with up to five occupants, plus their gear without much fuss.

Given a bit of a push off the mark, however, the odd gearshift was jerky but once up to cruising speed, the vehicle handled the bitumen and sections of gravel road with alacrity through efficient power delivery. Steering was on the stiff side, even on smooth bitumen.



As for fuel consumption, Jeep claims a combined urban / highway consumption of 9.7 litres per 100 kilometres. The test S-Limited recorded 10 litres per 100 kilometres across a range of driving conditions.

At night the front lighting shone in more ways than one, the LED lamps twice as bright as the previous Xenons, with greater depth of field and wider beam.

The seats were a trifle unwelcoming, being flat, firm and lacking lateral support, which

could be a problem in rough going off road. Head and shoulder space were more-than ample for average-size occupants.

Summary

Jeep has realised it cannot rely on the company’s raw off-road credentials to match the sophistication of the modern compact SUV. The Compass is heading in the right direction to take up the battle against some of the most competitive rivals on the planet. Good luck.

Lions progress young sides for 2021-22 season

Melton is gearing up for the upcoming Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association south-west season.

Playing-coach Brad Jones said the club is “very excited” for the weekend, despite a wet weather forecast potentially putting a hold on the game.

Jones said pre-season training has been “really good” with the progression of last year’s young side.

He said the team is keen to use the young players to their advantage after last season which saw them finishing 12th on the ladder.

Jones said they’ve been adapting their game to gear more towards one day cricket because the younger players are “not as used to it”.

The Lions have lost two players who have moved on to other teams.

Most significantly, leading batter Nathan Taylor has moved onto Werribee.

Jones said they’ve also lost all-rounder Jaskirat Singh.

Other than those losses and the progression of the young sides, the Lions are a “fairly similar squad to last year,” Jones said.

Despite COVID, Jones said numbers are looking good across the club, but being so early on in the season and with only about five preseason sessions, Jones is hoping the numbers will grow.

The club is also excited to see their new ground “up and running,” Jones said.

The revamp of the facilities was completed at the start of November and included updated rooms, training nets and an entirely new ground.

Last week, the team were able to head out onto the field for the first time.

“It was exciting to get out and have a good hit on that.

“We’ve got amazing facilities up there now - we’re a bit spoilt,” Jones said.

Jones said the project was able to be completed with help from a mixture of

Melton council, Cricket Victoria and the state government.

Melton was scheduled to play Oakleigh on Saturday but the round was washed out.

The match has been rescheduled for Sunday, December 5.

Melton will face Yarraville at Yarraville Oval this Saturday.

It was a tough weekend for cricketers across Melton and Moorabool, with all men’s matches cancelled.

Darley’s women’s side played on Sunday in the Gisborne and District Cricket Association.

The understrength Lions lost to Lancefield Black.

Bacchus Marsh’s match against Ballarat was a washout.

Sarah Oliver

Melton coach Brad Jones. (Damjan Janevski) 200651



Western United's Luke Duzel.
(Supplied/Getty)

Duzel makes an impact

By Tara Murray

Western United young gun Luke Duzel made an instant impact in the Olyroos squad as he helped the Australian team qualify for next year’s Asian Cup.

Duzel was one of three United players who travelled to Dubai as part of the squad, along with Noah Botic and Adisu Bayew.

For the trio, it was the first time they had been named in the Olyroos squad, the Australian under-23 national team, with Duzel and Bayew making their debuts

Having represented Australia previously at a younger age group level, Duzel said it was nice to have the opportunity to represent his country again.

“It was great to put on the jersey again,” he said after returning to Australia.

“It’s always good, even just getting out of the country was good.

“I was relieved [to get in the squad]. I thought I had delivered last season and played quite a few minutes.”

Duzel, at just 19 years old, was given a

leadership role within the group. He played the whole 90 minutes in the first game.

The Olyroos won both their games and qualified for next year’s Asian Cup.

“We came to qualify for the Asian Cup next year, the whole team wanted to do that,” he said. “I did really well doing the job I was given in the team. I didn’t play the second game though due to injury.”

Making the squad for the Asian Cup is a focus of Duzel in the next 12 months.

The trip to Dubai which included 38 degree heat was a short one, with Duzel back in Australia and preparing for the upcoming A-League season.

Duzel was lucky to avoid having to quarantine as he is fully vaccinated.

He said things had been going well under new coach John Aloisi.

“John is different from the coach before,” he said. “He has a more quiet persona. I like what I have seen so far and it’s been really good and everyone is buying into what he is doing.

“We’re trying to keep it positive. We’re looking game by game and hopefully we can

get back into finals.”

Personally, Duzel said he was keen to try and get more minutes after making massive inroads last season, including starting several games.

Duzel said he had loved his time at United, having previously been with Melbourne City. Having grown up living in Sydenham, playing for a western suburbs team is a dream come true.

“I played at Melbourne Knights and started my junior career there.

“I was then in the state squad and moved onto Melbourne City. I moved to Western United when I was 17.

“When I heard a club would be in the west that was close to me, I didn’t think much about it. The coaches didn’t have to pressure me too much.”

Meanwhile, United returned to the field on Saturday in their first official match in a number of months.

The side faced Newcastle Jets in the FFA Cup for a spot in the last 16.

For the result and match details, go to www.starweekly.com.au

Burras are ‘thrilled’ with new recruits

Diggers Rest has signed three new players for next year’s Riddell District Football League season.

The 2022 season will see Mitch Jensen, Mitch Day and Lachie Ronaldson join the club.

Jensen arrives from Echuca United and previously played for Romsey in 2019 where he kicked 43 goals from his nine games.

According to the Burras Facebook page, he is an “explosive, goal kicking mid-forward who loves a running bounce”.

Jensen has also played for Footscray in the VFL and is a Doutta Stars premiership player.

He is quite familiar with the Burras as he works with one of their sponsors and several of their players, as well as joining the team for training last year during lockdown.

The three recruits have played together previously in a premiership at Doutta Stars in Essendon District Football League and remain “mates” from their time at the club together.

Day arrives from the Stars and is a mid-size forward. The Burras post said however he can be versatile, playing higher up the ground.

The Burras said that he is “strong in the air and a classy goal kicker”.

Ronaldson joins the team from Glenroy and is a key forward who can play a hit up role or as a deep traditional key forward.

The Burras said he is “a great user of the ball and will present all day”.

“We can’t wait for all three to pull on the jumper in 2022,” said the club on the Facebook page. “Welcome boys!”

Despite constant lockdowns and fewer games, the Burras landed second on the ladder for the 2021 season.

The Burras have also announced a number of re-signings.

Former premiership captains Stuart Clarke and Tom Gleeson, former AFL players Taylor Hine and Cale Morton, and former Bowen Medalist Jaidyn Caruna headline the re-signings.

Sarah Oliver



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