

IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS BUT...



Budding legal eagles

Maurice Blackburn's Dandenong office legal assistants Vesna Cater and Helen Reid, and principal lawyer Gino Andrieri, faced some tough questions on Friday 18 May from Year 10 legal studies students at Narre Warren South P-12.

They sat alongside Monash University arts law student Shirin Motamedi as part of an information session held for Law Week.

All eyes on Springvale

CCTV cameras are springing up around Springvale.

Greater Dandenong engineering services director Julie Reid told the Monday 14 May council meeting that the installation included more than 30 cameras and would be finished later this month.

She said police would be able to tap into the system.

The cameras will put eyes on Springvale Road, Buckingham Avenue, Balmoral Avenue, Multicultural Place and Warwick Avenue.

What's in a name?

The Keysborough South debate came up again at the Monday 14 May Greater Dandenong Council meeting.

Councillor Roz Blades asked whether the council had a position on changing the name of the Keysborough area colloquially known as Keysborough South - it's getting a Keysbor-

ough South Primary School and a Keysborough South Community Hub, after all.

Acting corporate services director Kylie Sprague said there were no current proposals for a name change and the council would need a petition from the residents to initiate a change.

Cash for MS cause

Dandenong North's Rania Melhem raised more than \$10,000 at her first charity dinner.

The Journal reported last week that the 28-year-old with multiple sclerosis was the face of the MS Home Lottery fund-raiser and was also hosting her own event for the cause.

Greater Dandenong Councillor Zaynoun Melhem, cousin to Rania's husband, told the Monday 14 May council meeting about her great results.

"Rania's a really inspiring young person in our community," he said.

Vale Lyn Woodman

The community farewelled stalwart Lyn Woodman on Wednesday 16 May, filling two chapels at Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Lyn and her husband Brian had spent their whole lives in Springvale and Noble Park.

Lyn was born at the Springvale Hospital and in recent years they had both been a huge part of the Noble Park Community Centre and Keyzpark Calisthenics Club, along with their four children and nine grandchildren.

Gateway open wide

By Casey Neill

Award-winning social enterprise Waverley Industries has expanded into Greater Dandenong and is promising to boost job opportunities.

It's employing adults with disabilities at the former Gateway Industries site in Progress Street, Dandenong South, following a merger with the financially-strapped disability enterprise.

The Journal reported last September that Gateway's second-biggest customer, the City of Casey, had ended its eight-year relationship and created a \$180,000 shortfall.

We revealed on Wednesday 16 May that Gateway support staff finished up on Monday 14 May, but its 54 supported workers would continue employment with Waverley.

CEO Frank Cresia said Waverley's mission was to provide support and employment and training in a viable and sustainable business manner.

"A third of our workforce is unfunded," he said, referring to government subsidies.

"We're building a resilience to funding.

"The business is growing.

"Employees with disabilities have greater opportunities to earn more money.

"There's less reliance on the disability support pension, or NDIS.

"If people are able to earn more they're going to improve their own lifestyle.

"By improving their lifestyle it stimulates the economy."

Mr Cresia said Waverley would honour Gateway contracts, including litter pick-up and street furniture cleaning services for Greater Dandenong Council.

He said there could even be opportunities to perform more work for the council and employ more workers.

"We now support 350 people with disabilities, plus our qualified support staff," he said.

"We've got about 46 trainees in our accredited



Kim Kraehenbuehl and supervisor Lan Tran. 181134

Pictures: GARY SISSONS

ited trainee programs.

"Then we've got work experience with students from special schools - that's about 100.

"With volunteers, that brings us well over the 550 people that we support through Waverley Industries across the three sites.

"We've had enormous organic growth. Now we've had the opportunity to take on Gateway.

"We need to put more resources, particularly in sales and marketing."

Gateway started more than 30 years ago as a Rotary Club of Dandenong initiative.

Former Gateway CEO Alan Warwick said: "It is sad but what we set out to achieve is getting all the employees a job and that's what we got through Waverley.



Daniel Thomas and Lonny Meunier. 181134

"They're all taken care of.

"We looked at a few different companies.

"Waverley matched up the best."