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MADELEINE, 4

(Shawn Smits)

Day care celebrated

Our Village Family Childcare children and educators in Sunbury celebrated National Family Day Care Week with a picnic.

Childcare co-ordinator Sue Damiano said seven educators and more than 20 children gathered at Galaxy Land Jackson Park to enjoy the picnic and live music.

"It was a great day, a little freezing though," she said. "The children had a great time with the music ... and playing on the equipment."

Ms Damiano said that while the event was a chance for the children and their day carers to have some fun, it also acknowledged day care's contributions.

"It's really important to recognise the service in the community," she said.

The Sunbury family day care service was

one of many childcare centres that celebrated National Family Day Care Week.

Family Day Care Australia chief executive Andrew Paterson said the work day care services provided for children were important to their development.

"Celebrating the uniqueness and diversity of family day care is at the heart of National Family Day Care Week and at the heart of family day care itself," he said.

"The ability for family day care educators to provide one-on-one attention in a natural home environment is something that cannot be replicated in other early childhood education care settings."

Jessica Micallef

Briefs

Wanted man

Police are appealing for public assistance to help locate 40-year-old man Damien Ratcliffe. A warrant was issued last Thursday for his arrest in relation to court order matters. Ratcliffe is known to frequent Gisborne, Melton and Bacchus Marsh. He is about 180cm tall, caucasian in appearance and has a medium build and short brown hair. Investigators have released an image of Ratcliffe. Crime Stoppers, 1800 333 000.

Bake-off

Applications are open to participate in Sunbury's Great Bake-Off Challenge, part of Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Friday, May 31. The event will be held at the function room at Rainbow Court from 9am-noon. A selection of coffee, tea and home-baked goods will be offered, along with games, raffles, hampers and auction prizes. The challenge entry fee is \$5. Details: 0413 222 385

Bike trail pledge

A federal Labor government has promised to invest \$5 million in a bike trail from Daylesford to Hanging Rock if the party is elected. The trail will pass through Daylesford, Musk, Bullarto, Lyonville, Trentham, Carlsruhe and Woodend. The project has been identified by the Macedon Ranges and Hepburn councils as a priority.

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