



Troy Austin, Kellie Hunter, Gail Redford and Acting Inspector Troy Parnell at the Police NAIDOC Week event. Picture: ROB LEESON

SUNBURY

Skills to tackle violence

A NEW program being launched later this month in Sunbury is looking for young women to take a leadership role in reducing family violence.

Stand Up, Speak Out is a Sunbury Community Health initiative in partnership with DPV Health and Hume Youth Services.

“Stand Up, Speak Out is designed to foster leadership and provide skills and resources for young women to champion gender equality and the prevention of violence against women,” Sunbury Community Health spokesman Matthew Gleeson said.

“Participants will be involved in bystander training designed to be fun, informative and empowering.

“The project culminates in a youth lead project designed and implemented by the participants with support of staff from Sunbury Community Health, DPV Health and Hume Youth Services.”

Mr Gleeson said the importance of the project was strengthened by family violence statistics revealing higher rates in Hume than other council areas.

The group is for young women aged 12 to 18 and will focus on leadership training.

It’s rollout in Sunbury follows a pilot program in Craigieburn which culminated in a youth disco highlighting gender equality.

“In Craigieburn, the group were really motivated and they wanted to do something which got the message across to other young people,” Mr Gleeson said.

The program begins on Monday, July 30, with sessions from 4-6pm at the Sunbury Youth Centre, 51-53 Evans St, Sunbury.

Details: natalles@hume.vic.gov.au

SUNBURY

First step to harmony

Barry Kennedy

Police celebrate event to correspond with NAIDOC Week

GREAT strides have been taken towards improving ties with indigenous communities in Sunbury with Victoria Police marking NAIDOC Week for the first time in the region.

No police event has ever corresponded with NAIDOC Week in the northwest policing division.

Emerging out of a regular “Aboriginal yarning circle”

at Kangan TAFE in Broadmeadows, the celebration is set to be the first of many to bring police closer to indigenous communities, Acting Inspector Troy Parnell said.

“We realised that 6.1 per cent of Melbourne-based indigenous community members live in Hume and the thought was as police we aren’t as connected with this

community as we should be, especially the further out in the region we get, such as Sunbury,” he said.

“Having this event is the first step in having better and more continuous relationships with indigenous communities and, in the next six months, we will look to establish an advisory committee to better engage with this com-

munity.” Acting Insp Parnell said better engagement could potentially provide opportunities for police to learn more about issues such as family violence in indigenous communities or offer the chance to build better youth links with police.

Department of Justice and Regulation northern metropolitan executive officer Troy

Austin said regularly mixing with police was also a win for indigenous people.

“Getting to meet police gives Koorie people some familiarity, so when they need to make a report they can and they get to see police stations aren’t all about locking people up,” he said.

The smoking ceremony, cultural dance and Welcome To Country ceremony was held at Sunbury police station last Thursday.

SUNBURY

Loved pet dies after mauling a month ago by two dogs

A BELOVED Sunbury dog has died a month after a vicious attack by two Staffordshire terriers in his front yard.

The 12-year-old Yorkshire terrier Monty died last Wed-

nesday from a likely internal infection caused by a brutal mauling in Issacs Close on June 10.

His owner Karen Muscat told the *Leader* Monty had retained an outgoing person-

ality despite his ordeal. “He was really going well and all of his external wounds had healed up well, but on Sunday night he went downhill really quickly,” she said.

“We took him to the vet the

next day and all his blood levels were bad — we tried some antibiotics, but it was too late.”

Ms Muscat and husband Andrew are angry that the woman, who was walking the

two dogs that mauled Monty, did not stop to exchange details.

The family spent more than \$5000 on vet bills. To report a dog attack phone Hume Council on 9205 2200.

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