



Sunbury community and business leaders get together ahead of the new campaign against domestic violence. Picture: ROB LEESON

SUNBURY

Saying no to violence

Jessica Coates

Community takes strong stand against domestic violence

SUNBURY has come together to take a strong stand on violence against women.

A number of community groups and businesses have joined to open up the conversation around Sunbury and provide an outlet for survivors.

The 16 days of advocacy is bookended by the Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Sunday

and the International Human Rights Day on December 10.

Sunbury Community Health's Bernadette Hetherington said a community coffee catch-up was earmarked for Thursday, November 29.

"It's about coming along to have a chat and forming those connections," she said.

Ms Hetherington said it was about opening up the

conversation. The coffee catch-up will take place from 10am to 11am at Just Planet cafe.

On average, one woman is murdered by a current or former partner each week in Australia and it's estimated one in three women in the country have experienced violence since age 15.

Collins Bookstore will get

the conversation going with a display focused on women's empowerment.

Owner Michelle Billings said she wanted to provide examples of women who have fought through tough times.

"I want the display to be about women who have come out the other end of things braver and who are standing

on their own," Ms Billings said.

"I think it's important that women can see that anything is possible.

"There are places they can ask for help."

After coffee, women could also take some time out and enjoy free sessions at Sunbury Neighbourhood House.

The morning offers yoga, tai chi and meditation sessions. Register for the sessions on 9740 6978.

MACEDON RANGES

Help to bring some Christmas cheer by donating toys

CHRISTMAS will bring different sections of the community together at the annual combined churches Macedon Ranges Toy Shop.

The toy shop helps families who might struggle to buy a

Christmas gift. Organiser Georgina Harvey said she was looking for donations.

"Families aren't just handed something, it's giving families back the dignity of choosing something for their

child," she said. Ms Harvey said gifts needed to be new and valued about \$20 for children aged up to 18.

Stocking fillers, plush toys and books were also welcome.

Ms Harvey suggested gifts like sporting equipment, make-up, watches, perfume, tool sets or headphones for older children.

Donations will be accepted until December 12.

They can be dropped off at the Cobaw Community Health Kyneton and Woodend branches.

You can also arrange pick up by phoning Georgina Harvey on 0404 442 891.

Christmas lights

Calling all Santa's elves! We're creating the ultimate guide to Melbourne's Christmas lights. If you're decorating your home, we want to know about it. Go to leadernews.com.au/xmaslights2018, tell us about your display and upload a photo before Sunday, December 2. We'll publish as many as we can in a special feature the week commencing December 10.

For the creative

Photographers, videographers, artists, composers, writers, painters or any creative person can apply for a Hume Council-run program aimed at building skills in commissioning and developing art. Expressions of interest close November 30. Details: www.hume.vic.gov.au/Sunbury.Cultural.Commissions

Festive trivia

The Sunbury Neighbourhood kitchen will host a Christmas trivia night on December 6. There will be prizes, raffles and bistro meals available from 5.30pm at Sunbury United Sporting Club in Mitchells Lane. Bookings essential. Entry is \$10.

Street Watch

SUNBURY

Sunbury firefighters joined their Gisborne counterparts to put out a car fire on November 14. The driver made a lucky escape after the car caught fire in Gisborne South just after 9pm. The driver swerved to avoid hitting a fox, leaving the road and hitting a tree.

MACEDON

Two hooded offenders broke into a bakery in Victoria Ave, Macedon, on Friday. The men then allegedly targeted sheds behind the Macedon post office. Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers.

SUNBURY

Police have warned that scammers are targeting small businesses using distraction and EFTPOS machines. Find out more at scamwatch.gov.au



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