



Sunbury Pride's Chloe Stubbs, Oscar Thomas-Martin, Erin Power, Emily Mercer, Jordan Casey and Ben Walden are delighted at the vote outcome. Picture: LUIS ENRIQUE ASCUI

SUNBURY

# Jubilation at 'yes' vote

### Huge backing for marriage equality in McEwen electorate as local groups vow to continue support

Barry Kennedy

AN OVERWHELMING sense of joy and relief swept across the Sunbury LGBTIQ community as the marriage equality survey results were released last week.

Voters in the town's federal electorate of McEwen showed huge support for the "yes" vote at 65.4 per cent —

outshining the national average of 61.6 per cent.

Jordan Casey, who established Sunbury Pride after the postal vote forms hit homes, said the group would continue to support the LGBTIQ community.

"Some of the 'no' campaigning was awful, but we were all ecstatic we were creating an inclusive environ-

ment where we could support each other," Mr Casey said.

"By having the group set-up, we were able to help each other in the bad times throughout the last two months."

Mr Casey, also the Sunbury Community Progress Association president, said a sense of isolation experienced during the period had

been a motivating factor for the group.

Sunbury Community Health's Phillip Ripper said his organisation was proud of the result.

"We know that discrimination and exclusion have a major impact on the health of individuals, families and communities," Mr Ripper said.

"We look forward to a speedy resolution of what has been a harmful debate."

Cobaw Community Health chief executive Margaret McDonald described the yes vote result as "joyous".

"The overwhelming message to government is this is an important issue and it proved humanity happens," Ms McDonald said.

SUNBURY

## Job losses and credit card debt send 70 people broke

EXCESSIVE credit and job losses sent 70 people in Hume broke during the three months to September, new data reveals.

Australian Financial Security Authority figures

show 63 declared themselves insolvent for personal, not business-related, reasons.

The biggest reason was "excessive use of credit" followed by loss of income because of unemployment,

divorce or relationship breakdowns, or getting sick.

Hume recorded 52 insolvencies during the July quarter.

Financial Counselling Australia chief executive

Fiona Guthrie said bankruptcy, debt agreements and debt waivers were among the options available to people with unmanageable debt.

Ms Guthrie said people could also consider getting a

hardship arrangement, payment moratorium or extension from a creditor.

For free and independent financial counselling, phone the National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007.

### Rainbow group

The Rainbow Network is coming to town for a Safe in Sunbury event allowing community groups and professionals to initiate best practice standards for working with LGBTIQ community members. It's tomorrow (Wednesday) at The Goonawarra Community Centre, 10am-1pm. Details: [fb.it.do/LGBTIQ\\_Sunbury](http://fb.it.do/LGBTIQ_Sunbury)

### Fundraiser

Romsey woman Tayla Jordan has organised a colourful fundraiser for mental health. The dinner event at the Romsey Mechanics Hall features hypnotist Bizarre Gazzard, with comedian Adam "Chicken" Parmer and guest speakers. Funds raised will go to Young Diggers and Sunbury Community Health. It's this Saturday from 6.30pm. Tickets are \$35. Details: 0433 034 472 or [taylajordan@live.com](mailto:taylajordan@live.com)

### Green options

Environmentally friendly food waste bins and bags could be offered to every household in Sunbury and the rest of Hume. The council will consider the viability of supplying residents with free corn starch bags and a small bin. Cr Ann Porter said it would be an easy way to recycle organics.

### Venue spotlight

The need for a performing arts centre in Hume will be brought into focus. The council will review previous proposals and strategies into creating such a venue. Cr Naim Kurt said it was unfortunate there wasn't a place to host concerts, performances and plays.

### Say on health

The number of people who smoke in Hume could decrease 30 per cent by 2025 under a new health plan. The draft Hume Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 adopted last week aims to prevent illness, disease and injury. Community feedback is being sought on the plan until early January. Visit [hume.vic.gov.au](http://hume.vic.gov.au)



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