

SUNBURY

Revealing secrets of pokies

Anti-gambling groups invite public to screening of award-winning movie

Barry Kennedy

SUNBURY Community Health and Hume Council are taking the fight to poker machines with a screening of the movie *Kaching! Pokie Nation*.

The award-winning documentary highlights the design features of pokies which lead to gambling addictions and features neuroscientists explaining their effect on the brain of users.

The screening next Tuesday evening at Readings Cinema, Sunbury will be accompanied by a panel discussion.

Featuring in that discussion is Alliance of Gambling Reform campaign organiser Kelvin Thomson, Associate Professor Samantha Thomas of Deakin University and Bill Veerman, a community educator who has lived through gambling addiction.

They will be joined by therapeutic councillor Cheryl Lyon, who works for Gambler's Help North and North Western.

Ms Lyon services the Sunbury region, providing counselling to individuals experiencing gambling-related harm and to their families.

Sunbury Community Health community partnership and engagement officer Matt Gleeson said the motivation for the screening was making the community aware of the scale of pokies addiction and the pervasiveness of the technology.

For the 2016-17 financial year, five Sunbury poker machine venues collected \$18.5 million.

The free event is from 6pm to 9pm. Book at eventbrite.com.au and search for the movie title.



PARKRUN FUN TO KICK OFF

THERE has never been more incentive for Sunbury residents to gather their trainers and go for a jog.

This Saturday, Sunbury parkrun will be held for the first time.

The global movement started in the UK, giving participants the chance to take part in a 5km, timed weekly run or walk.

The initiative has been established in towns and suburbs across Australia, including Craigieburn and Lancefield.

Medibank has supported the initiative with its Free + Active! campaign, which aims to tackle physical inactivity and promote community connection.

Medibank research shows more than 50 per cent of Sunbury locals are inactive.

The health insurer is the major sponsor of Sunbury parkrun, which also received start-up funding from Hume Council.

Sunbury parkrun will be held every Saturday, at 8am, at Apex Park. Details: [facebook.com/sunburyparkrun](https://www.facebook.com/sunburyparkrun)

Mark Porritt will take part in the Sunbury parkrun. Picture: LUIS ENRIQUE ASCUI

SUNBURY

Organisations get vital cash boosts

Barry Kennedy

TWO Sunbury organisations have received crucial federal cash through the Stronger Communities program.

Sunbury Neighbourhood Kitchen received \$7336, to be matched by the kitchen.

McEwen federal Labor MP Rob Mitchell said the

money would go towards crucial equipment upgrades, "which will allow Sunbury Neighbourhood Kitchen to continue their amazing work".

"The kitchen and their phenomenal team of volunteers have done such a wonderful job serving the up to 200 people in need of a healthy meal, a supportive

environment and a sense of community," he said.

Mr Mitchell confirmed the kitchen had "done so good a job, they've outgrown their current home".

It will move to Memorial Hall on the Village Green in 2018.

Elsewhere, Heartbeat Victoria has received \$2500

as part of its launch in Sunbury.

"As a volunteer-run peer support group, Heartbeat is a place for people to share their own experience with a heart event or supportive of a loved one through an event, finding comfort and solidarity in others with similar stories," Mr Mitchell said.

HUME

Struggle to be understood

PUTTING the spotlight on Broadmeadows in the controversial TV series *Struggle Street* will be toxic for the people who live there, a community advocacy group says.

The *Leader* had a special viewing of series two — which features three families from Broadmeadows — ahead of the documentary's screening later this month.

Broadmeadows Progress Association secretary Sonja Rutherford said the series would be "toxic" for an already vulnerable community.

"We are aghest that such a program is portraying what they think are the typical characteristics of Broadmeadows," she said.

The SBS series premieres at 8.30pm on November 28.

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