

SUNBURY

# Rejuvenation plan for CBD

Barry Kennedy

US expert kicks off a grassroots initiative to lift spirits and fill shops in Evans St

DOZENS of Sunbury businesses are set to embrace a grassroots program aiming to rejuvenate the ailing central business district.

The Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) program was launched last Monday at the Sunbury Youth Centre by Peter Kenyon, a pioneer of an initiative which has been implemented in communities worldwide.

"In the US, where it was originated, the concept of business renewal was built on the idea the best resource is businesses already in town, rather than the businesses a community wanted to attract," he said.

The meeting heard a taskforce had formed in Sunbury with the next step recruiting volunteers and developing a

"structured interview questionnaire" to hone in on shared issues.

"The questionnaire really needs to get to what helps local businesses, what hinders them, and what ideas can they offer to make it easier for all businesses," Mr Kenyon said.

"It will only work if traders and the community partici-

pate but it can really identify red-flag issues and the context for a targeted business development strategy."

Sunbury business owner Sylvia Unferdorben told the meeting it was time to act.

"Parking is always presented as the issue and while it is obvious contributor, I had a shop at the Target Centre with fantastic parking,

with five independent fashion retailers when I started, but I was the last left," she said.

"If we can get people excited about Sunbury again and back into the CBD there will be flow-on effects for all."

Sunbury Business Association president Michael Osborne said the implementation of the BEAR program in

Sunbury could only benefit the town. "Evans St in particular really needs a shot in the arm," he said.

There are at least 10 vacant shops on Evans St between Station St and Brook St.

Sunbury Community Health's executive manager Bernadette Hetherington said interviews would take place before Christmas.

Actions would be implemented around a key event early next year.



Jade Dagher and daughter Farrah, 5, check out the Tangemere Avenue Reserve playground. Views are being sought on parks in Hume. Picture: IAN CURRIE

## PARK PLAYGROUND OPINIONS WITH COUNCIL

A SUNBURY playground is one of three across Hume set for refurbishments and the council wants your say on the plans.

The playgrounds in Kevin DeLaine Reserve in Dallas, Tangemere Reserve in Tullamarine and Roger Free Park in Sunbury have been

earmarked for improvements in 2018. Potential improvements could include improved lighting, resurfacing and new park furniture.

Surveys can be filled out online at [hume.vic.gov.au/yoursay](http://hume.vic.gov.au/yoursay). Information sessions will be held on September 9 at

Kevin DeLaine Reserve (9.30-11am) and Tangemere Reserve (1-3pm) and Roger Free Park on September 16 from 11am to 1pm.

## NDIS session

All the basics on the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Hume will be covered at an information session this Thursday. Suitable for people with a disability, families or carers, the session will cover everything about how the scheme works and feature people who have transitioned into it. It starts at 12.30pm, at Sunbury Community Health, 12-28 Macedon St, Sunbury. Bookings are essential on 9744 9554.

## Flu warning

Residents from Sunbury and across the state have been urged to wash their hands with soap before visiting loved ones in aged care or hospital, after the deaths of seven residents from the flu at a Wangaratta nursing home. Those with an illness have also been told to stay away. The Department of Health and Human Services said there had been 208 respiratory outbreaks in Victoria this year, compared to 104 at the same stage in 2016.

## Keep informed

For all the latest, breaking news and stories that matter most to you across Sunbury, like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SunburyLeader](https://www.facebook.com/SunburyLeader) and visit [sunburyleader.com.au](http://sunburyleader.com.au)

To promote your school in your local Leader, contact **Karen Chandler** on **9875 8034** or email **karen.chandler@news.com.au**

**Leader**  
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

**WANT A CAREER WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A REAL CONNECTION?**

**STUDY COUNSELLING AT ACAP.**

**APPLY NOW!**

Counselling | Psychology | Coaching | Youth Work | Social Science | Case Management  
Flexible study • Personalised learning • Industry expertise • FEE-HELP\*

[acap.edu.au](http://acap.edu.au) 1800 813 913 Classes start 18 September

**acap** Est. 1983  
Australian College of Applied Psychology

V1 - SRV01Z01MA

SUNBURY LEADER, Tuesday, September 5, 2017 03