

**August 2024**

# Community Update

## **Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Grant**

In very exciting news, the Wallington Reserve has been successful under the State Government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund which means serious upgrades for the pavilion to improve all-abilities access, changerooms and social spaces for the Wallington Cricket Club and the Bellarine Bears Baseball Club.

In addition to these upgrades, both clubs will share \$50,000 to support their all-abilities programs which create opportunities for kids of all abilities to play baseball or cricket and be a part of their sporting community.

Over August, the Bellarine Bears will run their junior all-abilities baseball sessions, and you can find more information at their Facebook page.

Congratulations to both clubs and all members, as I know many people have worked towards this project over many years. The project jointly funded by State and Local Council, demonstrates the positive impact we can make when working together.

## **Orange Door Access Point Drysdale**

Recently I joined the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence to visit The Orange Door Access Point in Drysdale to meet with staff and hear more about the impact this service is having in the region.

The Drysdale Orange Door has allowed for support closer to home for Bellarine residents and assists families experiencing family violence. It has been operating for a year now, and unfortunately the Bellarine is not immune, with the service being very busy.

With an older population on the Bellarine, The Orange Door also raised a worrying concern, with a growing trend of elder abuse. This may be from family members, but it may also be from neighbours or someone in the wider community taking advantage of an older person. If you are someone concerned about this, you can seek confidential advice from Seniors Rights Victoria on 1300 368 821 Mon - Fri 10am-5pm.

The Orange Door network is a free service that doesn't require a referral. They can be contacted on 1800 312 820 or emailed at [barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au](mailto:barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au) or you can drop in to 23-25 Palmerston St Drysdale from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

More information is also available at their website: [www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au](http://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au)

## **Leopold Lions Club**

Last month I attended the Leopold Lions Club's Change Over Dinner to see Rhiannon Russell become the new President. It was a lovely reminder of the belonging that comes with being a part of the Leopold community.

The work every one of the members do at the Lions Club is a testament to the power of unity and shared purpose, making such a positive impact.

A heartfelt thanks to all members for your commitment, dedication and kindness to our Leopold community.

