

NARDELLA'S NEWS

State Government News for Melton & Moorabool



Health & Ambulance Services Minister Jill Hennessy MLA and Don Nardella MLA with local Ambulance Officers

RECORD AMBULANCE INVESTMENT

Melton and Bacchus Marsh to each receive:

- ✓ New ambulance vehicle
- ✓ New 24-hour team with 14 additional FTE paramedics

MELTON BACCHUS MARSH

The Andrews Government will build a new ambulance station in Melton and boost ambulance resources in Bacchus Marsh, giving paramedics the facilities and support they need to quickly respond to local emergencies.

The Andrews Government is making a record \$500 million investment over five years to employ 450 more paramedics, buy new vehicles and build new branches across the state.

This is the largest ever funding boost for Victoria's ambulance services in a bold new plan to improve ambulance response times.

To house these additional resources, we will build a new state-of-the-art branch in addition to the existing branch in Melton, giving paramedics modern and safer facilities they deserve and room to grow.

The new purpose-built station will feature a drive in-and-out garage bay for vehicles, rest and recline areas, training rooms, bedrooms, modern amenities and fully-fitted out kitchen.

In 2016, we announced a \$2.5 million ambulance station in Bacchus Marsh on a new site to replace the current Branch that was built in 1968. The new paramedics announced will be in addition to the existing Bacchus Marsh team of 23 paramedics who currently provide 24 hour ambulance coverage.

Both Melton and Bacchus Marsh will also benefit from the establishment of a new 'super response centre' to meet growing demand in Melbourne's north-west. This centre will enable the flexible deployment of additional paramedics who can support local paramedics to respond during periods of peak demand.

This will make a further difference in reducing ambulance response times in Melton and Bacchus Marsh.

This funding is in on top of the \$144 million provided in the 2016/17 Victorian Budget which included the \$60 million Response Time Rescue Fund to improve ambulance response times.

NEW POLICE TRAINING SPED UP

STATEWIDE

The Andrews Government has provided the funding to speed up the training of 406 new police announced in the Victorian Budget 2016/17. These police officers will all be sworn in by the end of June 2017, rather than June 2018.

The new officers are over and above the hundreds of police trained over the course of the year to cover attrition. More police on the beat will no doubt assist to keep our streets safe, especially in Melton and Moorabool.

The Police Academy will be a hive of activity over the next 12 months as 1000 new police, Protective Services Officers and Police Custody Officers are recruited and trained.

MORE POLICE NEWS

Newly passed legislation has allowed the amendment of both the Crimes Act 1958 & the Bail Act (1977).

The new legislation created new offences of carjacking, aggravated carjacking, home

invasion and aggravated home invasion, and includes a presumption against bail for these crimes. Statutory minimum sentences will also apply - three years for aggravated carjacking or aggravated home invasion.



GLASSES FOR KIDS

Premier Daniel Andrews and Deputy Premier James Merlino 'Glasses for Kids' program

MELTON BACCHUS MARSH

In a Victorian-first, more than 30,000 Preps to Year 3 students at 250 schools in some of the state's most disadvantaged communities will have their eyes tested and receive free glasses as part of the Glasses For Kids program.

Children with undiagnosed vision problems often find it hard to concentrate at school, leading to poor results and bad behaviour - yet many struggling families avoid eye testing because of the cost.

Glasses for Kids has been trialled in 24 schools across Gippsland and Melbourne, and will now be rolled out in a further 226

schools around the state.

The state government has also partnered with Melbourne University to deliver Glasses for Kids, with supervised final-year optometry students to carry out vision testing at 160 schools.

Glasses For Kids will be offered at the following schools in Melton and Moorabool:

- Coburn Primary School
- Kurunjang Primary School
- Melton Primary School
- Melton South Primary School
- Melton Specialist School
- Melton West Primary School
- Pentland Primary School

MORE SCHOOLS NEWS

MELTON BACCHUS MARSH

Starting in first term 2017, the Doctors In Schools program will be rolled out progressively across 100 schools. Melton Secondary College, Kurunjang Secondary College and Bacchus Marsh College are among the schools that will get a GP under the scheme, which includes funding for staff and operational costs, as well as building consultation rooms on school grounds. Having a doctor at these local schools will give students reliable healthcare, reduce the pressure on working parents and help students identify and address their health concerns early.

A funding boost of more than \$40 million statewide for the Planned Maintenance Program will benefit 436 schools including Kurunjang PS (\$347,000), Melton West PS (\$162,000), Staughton College (\$541,000) and Wedge Park PS (\$51,000). This program funds maintenance and upgrading of old buildings.

The Victorian Government's \$566 million equity funding investment, which began in 2015, will continue to tackle disadvantage on student outcomes. Local funding will be directed to a number of Melton and Moorabool primary and secondary schools including Melton Specialist School.

CAROLINE SPRINGS STATION OPENS + NEW RAIL SERVICES

MELTON BACCHUS MARSH

The new Caroline Springs Station opened on the 29th of January, delivering train services to this booming community in Melbourne's west for the first time.

In peak hour, the new station is serviced by trains starting at Bacchus Marsh, rather than Ballarat, meaning more room for passengers getting on at the new station at the busiest times.

In addition, there is one new inbound and one new outbound evening service that will stop at all stations.

These improvements come ahead of the Government's \$518 million upgrade of the Ballarat line, which will duplicate the rail line to Melton and build new passing loops to run more frequent, reliable trains.

MORE RAIL NEWS

BACCHUS MARSH

The first six new regional carriages ordered by the Andrews Government are now in service – and all of them on services on the Ballarat line.

Heading in to Southern Cross in the morning, three per train have been added to the services originating at Wendouree that stop at Bacchus Marsh at 8:19 and 9:52am (the latter also stops at Melton at 10am). Coming back in the afternoon, the new carriages are on the 4:00 and 4:54pm services from Southern Cross which run express to Bacchus Marsh from Sunshine and Footscray respectively.

A three-carriage set adds 220 seats to a service.

Construction has been completed expanding Bacchus Marsh Station's carpark to accommodate an additional 150 vehicles. The project will also include installing lighting, CCTV cameras, drainage, signage and six new accessible car parking spaces.