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THE HILLIER VIEW

Kevin Hillier wants to get gender equality right the first time

I am glad the same sex marriage law has passed. The 'yes' vote was victorious despite many factions on both sides using the issue as nothing more than a personal slanging match. I will be interested to see if common sense does prevail, and we can get on with life, though I suspect there will be a new hot issue to rile those in our society always on the hunt for a blue.

Gender equality seems to invoke strong opinions. I think it is healthy to see women being appointed to high level management jobs, if the criteria is that the best person for the job gets it.

One disturbing aspect of this is the underlying inference that women need to be more like men when they assume that role. This is a theory, I think, perpetuated by men. We have enough power-crazed, egomaniacal, dismissive narcissists already in place. We don't need any more of either sex.

I have had both good and bad bosses in my working career, and their gender was never an

issue for me in judging their competence in the position, or how they treated me or other staff. Leadership is gender neutral in my mind. It is about what is in your heart and mind, not anything else.

The good news is, the opportunity to aspire to leadership roles is not being driven by your testosterone level, but by your level of ability to perform.

Whether it is business, community or political leadership, we are asking for a different style, regardless of gender. The abuse of power has to stop. It is foolish to believe that gender equality alone will achieve that, because it won't. That is a human failing not exclusive to either sex. There are some who are turning gender equality into a war that has to be waged immediately.

Let's make sure we get it right, rather than we get it right now. The fewer mistakes in setting all this up, the less damage to repair in the future - this is about people, the most precious resource on the planet. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au



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Briefs

Sporting chance

Sporting clubs in Wyndham will receive more than \$21,800 in funding from VicHealth's Active Club Grants program. Werribee MP Tim Pallas said among the grants the Manors Lakes Football Club would receive \$9814 to establish a second women's team and two girls' football teams. The Werribee Districts Football Club, Werribee Junior Cricket Club and Wyndham Dragons Netball Club will also receive \$3000 each to create more female teams.

Box it up

Would your child look inside a box marked "toilet paper", "tomato paste" or "laundry soap"? Pacific Werribee Shopping Centre has launched a line of "Boring Boxes" for families to hide presents in, as Christmas Day approaches. The boxes are available in exchange for a gold coin donation from the centre's gift wrapping station, with all proceeds going to the Wyndham City Salvation Army. Details: pacificwerribee.com.au

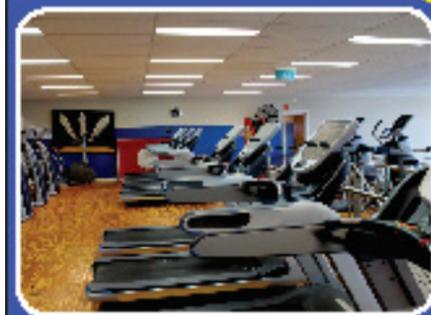
Lights switched on

A new set of traffic lights has been switched on at the entrance of Development Victoria's Riverwalk estate in Werribee. Located at the intersection of Newmarket and Geelong roads, the new intersection was designed to allow safer access to Geelong Road.

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