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DISTRIBUTION \ 43,469 copies 



Published by MMP Star Pty Ltd ACN 168 220 399  
Head Office Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042  
Publisher/General Manager, Colin Moss  
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# THE HILLIER VIEW

## Kevin Hillier backs Pick My Project

We all know there is a state government election looming and we are all viewing all parties with a degree of suspicion whenever they open their mouths promising yet another multi-million dollar hand out, and rightly so. If ever there was a time to buy votes, it is most certainly in the next few months.

There is one initiative on at the moment that is being run by the state government that I feel deserves a mention because it is a big picture item, not an immediate vote-grabbing exercise. The Pick My Project campaign is a beauty and has captured the imagination of local communities, especially here in Wyndham.

There are 30 organisations in Wyndham vying for the grants, ranging from about \$20,000 to \$200,000.

The range of projects is diverse and interesting. Everything is covered, from waste management, a local maps app and a mural on the iconic Werribee water tower to an inter-cultural tea and coffee festival. There is a proposed folk fest, plans to introduce lawn bowls more widely and also plans to bring

digital technology to the elderly. Werribee Football Club wants to upgrade its scoreboard, Wyndham BMX is looking to make over its score shed, all weather seating is being sought at the Hoppers Lane athletics facility and the Wyndham Community Boxing Club wants to introduce organised boxing to troubled teens.

All 30 projects are worthy of funding, but who gets the slice of state government money is decided for the most part by the amount of online votes it attracts. There are very strict rules regarding the voting which is good, but the way it has people talking about positive change to the area and engaging residents in projects in their own backyard is excellent.

The exposure to the public for all these 30 projects is brilliant. Would I have known about the musical therapy for special needs children, the lantern festival of light, or the body positive hiking for culturally diverse and refugee women without this initiative? Fair to say no.

It is a great idea. Well done to whoever thought of it. I hope it continues regardless of who wins the state election in November. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at [kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au](mailto:kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au)



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**Briefs**

**Tarneit listening post**

Wyndham councillors and staff, along with members of Victoria Police, are inviting residents to a listening post in Tarneit this weekend. The listening post, which will also include a free barbecue and face-painting, will run from 11am-1pm on Saturday, September 15, at the Tarneit Community Learning Centre, 150 Sunset Views Boulevard, Tarneit. Details: 9742 0777

**Property damage arrests**

Police have arrested an 18-year-old man from Tarneit and an 18-year-old man from Truganina in relation to property damage that occurred at a house in Ferguson Street, Williamstown on Sunday, September 2. The men were interviewed by police and were released pending further inquiries.

**Home invasion charges**

Police have charged a teenager following an aggravated home invasion in Habitat Court, Tarneit, on August 17. Detectives executed a search warrant at a Tarneit house last Wednesday and arrested a 17-year-old boy, who was charged with aggravated home invasion, theft of a motor vehicle, theft, possessing proceeds of crime and trafficking a drug of dependence. An 18-year-old Werribee man and another 17-year-old Tarneit male were arrested, but released pending further inquiries.

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