

Backbone to basketball

Idea carried for reusable bags

Leader education awards 06

WARRANDYTE Basketball Association's strong community continues to thrive, thanks to a helping hand from school students.

Warrandyte High School's considerable contribution to the Redbacks and Venoms has enabled the association to prosper, as well as provide development opportunities to its own students.

The school provides more than 15 referees and coaches, which association secretary Mandy Ratcliffe said formed "the backbone of the association".

"They are invaluable and we couldn't survive without the kids' participation," Ms Ratcliffe said.

"The relationship with the school is very strong and has been for 30 years, as is evident in the fact that we have a court at their stadium and use it as a training venue."

School assistant principal Mary Cannon said the involvement enabled the students to develop valuable life skills.

"Having them work with younger students is very beneficial and helps them to build leadership skills," Ms Cannon said.

"We are strong on trying to encourage kids as role models in the school and believe that this program is very beneficial."

Warrandyte High School is one of many schools to enter the Leader Education Awards.

Anyone can nominate in one of three categories: primary,



secondary and teacher. The awards recognise the contribution of students and teachers to the local community.

The *Manningham Leader* winners will receive their prize at school and will be profiled in the

paper. Entries close August 28. Schools that submit early entries may be featured in the *Leader*.

To receive an entry form by mail, phone 9875 8250, or download from www.leadernewspapers.com.au/education.

David and Ryan participate in Warrandyte High School's basketball program.

Pictures: JANE OLLERENSHAW

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TRADERS at three Manningham shopping centres hope to slash plastic bag use by 80 per cent over the next five months under an ambitious plan to take almost 70,000 bags a week out of circulation by the end of this year.

Traders' associations at Macedon Square (spokeswoman is Monica Dionisio), Bulleen Plaza and Warrandyte Township each received \$3000 under Sustainability Victoria's plastic-bag-free challenge. Each centre also received \$1000 from Manningham Council for the cause.

Shop smart

- Use reusable bags, boxes, trolleys or a backpack for shopping;
- Say no to plastic bags at the checkout;

Mayor Pat Young, scheduled to launch the challenge this morning, said only 13 Victorian shopping centres received state funding.

"Templestowe Heights Primary School, Dinky's Early Learning Centre, Least Waste and Lower Templestowe residents have all helped to implement the initiative," Cr Young said. "The community's involvement demonstrates a commitment to both environmentally responsible trading and shopping."

Macedon Square traders distribute about 20,000 bags each week, about 50,000 go out weekly at Bulleen Plaza and Warrandyte shoppers use about 15,000.

Sustainability Victoria provided each centre with 3000 reusable bags, 500 fridge magnets, information pamphlets, posters, badges and T-shirts to promote the cause.

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Longevity Medical is pleased to welcome Dr Eugene Wong. Dr Wong commences his practice in Doncaster on Monday 7th August. Dr Eugene has special interest in general practice, sports and paediatric medicine.

Dr Eugene will be able to accept only a limited number of new patients. This is to ensure he is not overwhelmed, so he can provide the high-level care the doctors at Longevity Medical strive to provide.

Call 9848 2009 to make an appointment to see Dr Wong, to discuss if he can be yours or your family's doctor.

8 Jackson Court, East Doncaster
Phone: 9848 2009