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Pakenham Cardinia Leader

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GETTING DIRTY: Casey Hospital was one big sandpit for two-year-old Brayden last week. The Pakenham toddler gave foreman Sam Breeze and site manager Doug Putt helpful hints as he turned the first sod for the \$4.2 million special care nursery extension. Brayden's mother, Sarah Kotsch, said her son couldn't wait to sink his shovel. "He's been so excited about getting a chance to dig today. He just loves digging," Ms Kotsch said. The *Leader* and Casey parents led the fight to get the nursery built after some pregnant women were turned away from the hospital because they were considered higher risk patients.

Picture: JANE OLLERENSHAW. N24B1305

Terrified into action

Crime | Dimity Barber

Youths aim loaded bow at mother

A PAKENHAM woman says she feared for her life when she was stalked by three youths wielding a bow and arrow last week. The terrifying ordeal has prompted the mother-of-two to start a Lakeside Safety House zone to protect children in the area. On November 30, about 6pm, Beth Mason was walking past the Lakeside shops when three teenage boys aimed the bow at her. Terrified, Ms

Mason said she hurried away but the youths followed her. She knocked on the door of a nearby house and the occupants let her in, called the police and later helped her home. Pakenham police Sen-Sgt Alan McCarthy said three teenagers had been apprehended but not charged over the incident.

He said they had picked up the bow and arrow from hard rubbish dumped on a roadside. "It is against the law to walk down the street with a weapon. But this is also a reminder to anyone wanting to dispose of something that could be used as a weapon, to do so responsibly," Sen-Sgt McCarthy said.

"Call a police station and bring the weapon to us and we will get rid of it for you lawfully." Ms Mason said it had been a frightening experience. "If I hadn't been able to knock on someone's door I could have been in big trouble," she said. "I thought I was moving into a safe area.

"But if you can't walk down the street in broad daylight without having a loaded bow aimed at you, is it really safe? I don't know anymore..." Safety House executive director Alice Dawkins said Lakeside Pakenham was an excellent place for a new Safety House program because of the number of young families and schools in the area. She urged anyone interested in taking part to phone 9775 0989 or go to safetyhousevic.org.au

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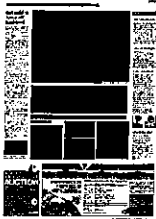
The Victorian Desalination Project has started works on the transfer pipeline at the corner of Pound and Gnoes Road, Berwick. These works are occurring adjacent to Pound Road and include fencing of the temporary easement, tree trimming and/or removal with the temporary easement and grading activities within the temporary easement.

Increased traffic movements including truck, service vehicles and heavy machinery will be occurring on the following roads over the coming months:

- Pound Road, Berwick and Cardinia area
- Berwick Cranbourne Road, Berwick
- Thompsons Road, Berwick area
- Gnoes Road, Berwick
- McCormacks Road, Cardinia area
- Balfarto Road, Cardinia area

Drivers are advised to be aware of changes to traffic conditions and new speed limits on these roads. For further information, please contact AquaSure on 1500 811 214.

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DID YOU KNOW | Nearly 5000 children have been born at Casey Hospital in its five years of operation

Tot digs the idea of a new wing

Work has started on Casey Hospital's \$4.2m special care nursery

Projects | Dimity Barber

CASEY Hospital was one big sandpit for two-year-old Brayden last week.

The Pakenham toddler gave workmen some helpful hints as he turned the first sod for the \$4.2 million special care nursery extension.

The *Leader* and Casey parents led the fight to get the nursery built after some pregnant women were turned away from the hospital because they were considered higher-risk patients.

Brayden's mother, Sarah Kotsch, said her son couldn't wait to sink his shovel.

"He's been so excited about getting a chance to dig today. He just loves dig-

ging. He's a real boy's-boy. He loves anything outdoors," Ms Kotsch said.

Ms Kotsch became aware of the importance of the special care nursery at the hospital when her son contracted a blood infection after birth.

"Brayden spent two weeks in the special care nursery. He was pretty sick. It was touch-and-go for a while.

"So this expansion is great news for local parents," Ms Kotsch said.

Southern Health chief operating officer Siva Sivarajah said cot numbers would increase from six to 20, catering for up to 2500 a year – an increase of 1000 on present numbers.

Health Minister Daniel Andrews

said the expansion meant Casey families would have the best care close to home.

"It means that sick babies can be treated close to their families," Mr Andrews said.

Narre Warren South state Labor MP Judith Graley said the number of births at Casey for the first six months of this year showed a 13 per cent rise on the same period last year.

"The expanded nursery is a real boost for neonatal services in the local community," she said.

The special care nursery is expected to be finished in late 2010.

It means that sick babies can be treated close to their families

DANIEL ANDREWS



Leader - Berwick

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N24BL305

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The special care nursery is expected to be finished in late 2010.



Special nursery to grow

FOR the first two weeks of his life, all Braydon Kotsch knew was the walls of the Casey Hospital special-care nursery.

Last week, he returned to help Health Minister Daniel Andrews announce the start of a \$4.2 million expansion of those walls.

The extension will bring the number of beds in the nursery from six to 20.

Southern Health chief operating officer Siva Sivarajah said the expansion would help cater for the growing demand in Casey and Cardinia.

The expansion means the nursery will go from a Low Level 2 to a High Level 2 nursery and the hospital can cater for about 1000 more births a year.

Mr Andrews said it would mean more families in the outer-eastern suburbs could access the very best maternity services close to where they live.

"It will reduce the need to transfer newborns requiring extra care to other hospitals.

"It means that these sick babies can be

treated close to home, close to their families. It will also allow babies with extra needs born at other hospitals to move closer to home with their mothers."

Since Casey Hospital opened five years ago, about 5000 babies have been born there.

The works are expected to be finished late next year.

Danielle Butcher



Work in progress: Braydon, who spent two weeks in Casey Hospital's special-care nursery after his birth, returned last week to kick off construction of a \$4.2 million extension.

Picture: Sam Stiglec





Birth of nursery

PREPARATION works for the construction of the \$4.2 million expansion of Casey Hospital's special care nursery have begun.

Health Minister Daniel Andrews visited the site on Tuesday and turned a sod to mark the start of the building phase on the project, which will more than triple the number of nursery cots to 20.

Late last month construction workers started preparation for building to begin early next year.

About 32 workers will be employed during the construction.

"We built and opened the Casey Hospital in 2004, and now we're funding a major expansion of the special care nursery so that more families in the outer-eastern suburbs can access the very best maternity services, close to where they live," Mr Andrews said.

"The expanded special care nursery will have an extra 14 cots, which will reduce the need to transfer newborns requiring extra care to other hospitals. It means that these sick babies can be treated close to home, close to their families."

Joining Mr Andrews for the sod turn was three-year-old Bray-

den Kotsch from Pakenham who was born at Casey Hospital in 2007 and spent two weeks with respiratory concerns at the special care nursery.

Brayden's mother Sarah said they were well aware of the importance of the service and more importantly the need to expand it so even more families could benefit.

Nearly 5000 children have been born at Casey Hospital.

The expansion project is expected to be completed in August 2010.



Local MPs Luke Donnellan and Judith Graley, Health Minister Daniel Andrews and chief operating officer for Southern Health Siva Sivarajah watch as Brayden Kotsch helps turn a sod to mark the start of the building phase for the expansion of Casey Hospital's special care nursery. 40113

Picture: Donna Oates