

# It's none of our business but...

About 70 people donned their best eye patches, peg legs and parrots for a Keysborough event with 'arr'.

The Somerfield estate's one-acre pirate playground hosted its third annual Talk Like a Pirate Day celebration on Sunday 18 September.

A Somerfield spokeswoman said bad weather kept numbers down, but "they had lots of fun despite the threat of rain".

"We were lucky it was a bit cold but dry!"

Kids dressed up to pay tribute to the world's Peg Legs, Blackbeards and Long John Silvers.

The day featured a treasure hunt, competitions, bouncy castle, pirate, balloon-making, face painting and more.

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Andrea Christoforou received a special award at the Gateway Industries AGM - a certificate for putting up with her husband.

She'd notched up 36 years of marriage to Gateway board member Conn Christoforou the previous day, Tuesday 20 September.

Cheers and laughs erupted from the Dandenong Club function room when Gateway CEO Alan Warwick presented the award.

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The Journal can reveal a serious security breach occurred at a local police station last Thursday - a Star journalist left his satchel behind following a behind-the-scenes tour.

The red-faced reporter spent a humbling 20 minutes at the front counter, waiting his turn for an officer to come to his aid.

He successfully retrieved the bag and the many notepads scrawled with stories within.

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A Greater Dandenong dance for seniors could be making a comeback.

At the Monday 12 September council meeting, councillor Maria Sampey asked for the International Multicultural Senior Citizens' Dance to return.

"It was a much loved function supported by council over many years," she said.

"Older residents have been telling me it was a highlight of their year.



Sammi wears his best pirate gear.

Cr Sampey successfully asked that costing options to re-establish the dance next year be prepared for consideration in the 2016-17 mid-year budget.

Cr Sean O'Reilly said a recent report identified dancing as one of the best exercises for elderly people.



David Nugent, with awarded students Ryan, Joel and Jamie and VCAL teacher Jason Tickner who helped on the Call Me Dad event. 158991  
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

# Changing spots

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

Hallam Senior College is set to literally build on the success of its recent screening of the locally-shot anti-family violence documentary Call Me Dad.

The doco, which takes a rare look inside men's behaviour change programs run by Casey-based Heavy METAL, was premiered as a full feature to a packed house on 26 August.

Funds were put towards funding Heavy METAL participants who could not otherwise afford the program.

The college's assistant principal, David Caughey, said the college hoped to find and help renovate a local house - which could be used as an emergency shelter for family violence victims.

Each year, Hallam Senior College trades students build structures on the school's grounds, only to tear down their work after its completion.

The beauty of the safety house proposal is that their works would be a lasting community benefit, Mr Caughey said.

"It would be a really good project - a win-win for everyone."

Students who promoted the screening at the

college and neighbouring schools were recently presented certificates for the project.

"The benefit is an increased awareness around the issue of family violence. People can have a greater empathy to those going through something as challenging and complex as this," Mr Caughey said.

"I'd be hoping that any family in the school community struggling with these issues will know where to turn."

David Nugent, who runs Heavy METAL, said the screening's Q & A session was especially moving.

Mr Nugent recalled a 16-year-old student from another school broke down in tears as he told the forum that this work had turned his father's life around.

Another man - who had been to 52 men's behaviour change classes - told the forum that finally "this leopard's spots are changing".

"There was a positive atmosphere, a sense of hope that men can change," Mr Nugent said.

"Everyone now understands that if a man puts up his hand and wants to get help, with the right support, he can change."

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