

Plenty on offer at street library

The Belmont community now has access to a free book, DVD or some lemons thanks to a new water-proof street library.

The Kalkee Murray Street Library opened outside Uniting AgeWell Kalkee Community, Murray, on the corner of Spring and Francis Streets, with a community event on Thursday, October 12.

Lifestyle coordinator Fiona Allchin said this was the first chapter in the library's future, with plans for a community notice board to be installed at the site and residents to write book reviews.

"There are about eight DVDs and 20 books on display at a time," she said.

"Each book has a sticker on it saying, 'With love from the Kalkee Murray Street Library', and comes with a beautiful bookmark made by our craft group and bearing the same message."

The wooden street library has a glass cover and a roof painted with white clouds, an initiative from the aged care residents to help them connect with the community.

Ms Allchin said the residents loved helping run the library as it gave them a "sense of purpose" and that the not-for-profit aged care facility had received positive feedback from the community.

She also said people could choose a free book or a DVD from the street library. Free lemons at the site will also be alternated with herbs and cherry tomatoes that residents grow on site.

The Uniting AgeWell Kalkee Community, Murray, residents will regularly visit the street library to see if anything needs replenishment and connect with the community.



Ken Knight, Fiona Allchin, Lifestyle Coordinator, Noel Morgan and Margaret Verzantvoort at the new Kalkee Murray Street Library. (Ivan Kemp) 366521_09

Leisure Networks and AFL Barwon awarded

Leisure Networks and AFL Barwon have brought home the gold in the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards.

The organisations won Sport and Recreation Victoria Sports Initiative of the Year during the October 3 awards night for establishing and facilitating the AFL Barwon Inclusion League.

Leisure Networks program coordinator Luke Maher said he was "quite humble" about the award and that the project was a collective effort.

"I've said it before, and I'll say it again, the group we work with here are truly amazing," he said.

"I remember sitting down in mid-2017 with a couple of the guys from Bell Park footy club, Tim Downes and myself.

"We sat down with a vision of being able to provide football opportunities for people living with disability, and what progressed was the Geelong Dragons."

Mr Maher said more than 100 players of different abilities, ages and genders were involved in the AFL Barwon Inclusion League's inaugural 2023 season.

"We could give more access to more players, and that's pretty much what has happened with the support of AFL Barwon," he said.

"The next step is to sit back down again

with AFL Barwon and see where we can move to next and how we can extend this over the coming years, to more clubs and more players."

AFL Barwon regional general manager Edward Wilson said the award showed a "phenomenal amount of people" who positively impact the community.

"What we want to do is create as much equitable opportunity as we can and there's a lot more to do," he said.

"That's what our partnership with Leisure Networks is all about, in creating the Inclusion League, to find opportunities for people in the Barwon region, in football and netball."



AFL Barwon regional general manager Edward Wilson, left, Leisure Networks program coordinator Luke Maher, and Sport Recreation Victoria Policy and Equity group manager Michelle Williams. (Photo by Morden Productions)





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