

FAST FACT | Community Housing Limited gives people in need rental housing at less than three-quarters of the market rate

Sports grounds reprieve

THE drought on Hume's sporting grounds looks to have broken with recent rains meaning none will need to be closed this summer.

Hume city infrastructure director Steve Crawley said rain in November and December meant all grounds were in use and would remain so unless extended heatwaves came.

Sports grounds in Craigieburn, Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Coolaroo, Dallas, Westmeadows, Tullamarine and Goonawarra are watered under restrictions with potable water.

Donnybrook Reserve is watered with bore water, Lakeside Drive Reserve, Roxburgh Park, with stormwater, Greenvale Reserve with dam water and Boardman Reserve, Langama Park and Clarke Oval in Sunbury with recycled water.

"All 54 grounds across the municipality are assessed on a weekly basis," Mr Crawley said.

Under the council's 2009-2010 capital works program oval 3 at Boardman Reserve, Progress West Reserve, Hothlyn Drive Reserve and Laura Douglas Reserve soccer field were all converted to warm season grasses, with water savings of up to 60 per cent.

The council will post changes to sports ground availability on its website, hume.vic.gov.au.

Tenants put skills to work on public housing project

No place like home

Training | Kate Swan

WORKING together to improve community housing has helped Broadmeadows residents feel more at home.

Nine community housing tenants and local indigenous community members worked together to renovate three community housing properties in Broadmeadows, Coolaroo, and Wallan.

Broadmeadows resident Trish Putland turned to community housing five years ago after struggling to afford private rental while on a disability pension.

Previous tenants had not cared for the house and left it with graffiti, smoke and flood damage.

The kitchen was renovated, holes in walls were repaired and the house repainted and carpeted.

Mrs Putland, who lives in the home with her daughter, Maxine, 24, said she now had pride in her home.

"It's all nice and clean and fresh again," she said.

"From what it was to how it is now, it has made a big difference."

Community Housing Limited organised the renovations of the properties, which are owned by the Enmaraleek Association.

The work was funded by the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Enmaraleek Association former manager Joe Narbaluk said it was



Maxine and Trish Putland are proud of the community house.

N29HO401

usually difficult to provide the maintenance and upgrades the properties needed on a low budget.

He was pleased with the result and hoped it had provided skills and training that would help people find work. "While we needed a quality

finish, we also needed to put people to work," he said. "We encouraged people to look beyond this project to take up other opportunities to improve their skills, and it's great to see some of these people pick up

other work in the community."

Online

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● Myki live blog

AFTER a long wait, myki has hit Melbourne. The public transport ticketing system has rolled out across the train network with trams and buses to follow.



The State Government says the new transport card promises to be smarter and more convenient, but how will it affect your journey? Join us online on Wednesday, January 20, at 11am for a Leader live blog with myki spokeswoman Jean Ker Walsh. Join the discussion and find out how to make the most out of myki. Log on to leadernews.com.au to take part.

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