

Affordable housing boost

By EBONNIE LORD

FORTY-EIGHT new community homes are being built in the Latrobe Valley.

This includes eight in Moe, 37 in Morwell and three in Newborough, which are all due to be finished by the end of the year.

Community Housing Limited's managing director Steve Bevington said the 48 new homes added to the 57 community housing properties already in the Valley.

"There is a chronic under supply of community housing and the Federal Government's Nation Building funding over the last two years has allowed us to ramp up the available houses," Mr Bevington said.

"These are first class homes that are a credit to the neighbourhoods they join and communities they contribute to.

"We have worked hard to get the most housing possible from every dollar invested."

As opposed to the private rental market, he said Community Housing Limited was a not-for-profit landlord that structured its business model around making rent affordable.

"Tenants do not pay more than 30 per cent of their total income in rent, which equates to about 75 per cent of the market rate and they can rent the property for as long as they would like," he said.

Morwell mother Haylee Riess said she was delighted to be living in a community house, which provided an affordable, quality home for her family.

"We looked for two years to find a rental property that suited our needs, but couldn't find anything," Ms Riess said.

"After we put our names on a waiting list for a community house everything since has been easy.

"The long term lease also takes the pressure off, it gives us a sense of security and the maintenance service is great and people are really nice."

Community Housing Limited has become the first community housing organisation in Australia to have its own in-house design and construction division and is the first to operate nationally and internationally.



Happy home: Josh Pollard and Haylee Riess and son Mysen are happy in their community home.

Detectives charge alleged truck thief

LATROBE detectives have charged a 42 year-old Traralgon man with stealing three trucks after they executed search warrants in Morwell, Traralgon and Pakenham. The trucks and property valued at \$800,000 were recovered.

The trucks were allegedly stolen from eastern Melbourne and Pambula, New South Wales.

The man will appear at

the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court in August.

Teen charged with theft

AN 18 year-old Moe man has been charged with theft from motor vehicle and going equipped to steal after a series of thefts from cars in the Latrobe Valley, Baw Baw and Melbourne.

Police said they ex-

pected to lay further charges before the man appears at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court in September.

Court hears of harassment

A MIRBOO North man has been found guilty of harassing a witness involved in this year's Delburn bushfire court hearing.

David John Fleming, 42, was found guilty in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court of harassing the witness in August last year.

Fleming was placed on a good behaviour bond for 12 months and ordered to pay witness costs and \$750 to the Country Fire Authority.

Sustainable gardening

PEOPLE interested in sustainable gardening and wanting to grow and eat fresh produce can attend the first gathering of the local Sustainable Gardening Australia POD to be held on Saturday, 7 August from 10.30am at Traralgon Neighbourhood Learning House, 11-13 Breed Street, Traralgon.

For more information phone Rae Carmichael on 5192 4584.

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