



Craigieburn. Basketball club is upset with the lack of courts and proper facilities. N34HO100

Players court help

Kylie Skotnicki

BASKETBALL players in Craigieburn are being forced to travel as far afield as Eltham and Doncaster due to a lack of courts. Basketball Association president Kathy Bailey said players were also changing in a nearby creche as there were no change rooms available. Ms Bailey is upset that plans for new basketball courts at the proposed Craigieburn Leisure Centre are not progressing quickly

enough, leading to new players being turned away. "They have to be planned properly, we understand that, but we've been waiting for years," she said. "We don't have change rooms, we don't have separate players rooms. "It's not just basketball that's suffering, it's netball, it's all court users." Bruce Fordham, acting director city communities for Hume Council, said the council was undertaking a master plan that would

outline options to redevelop the courts. "As part of the planning for the site, additional basketball courts, aquatic facilities, gymnasium and meeting spaces for the community will be considered," he said. "As council has not considered the draft Craigieburn Leisure Centre master plan, it is not possible to advise of a completion or usage date at this stage." The draft report is due to come before council next month.

Eagles get ready to step up



CRAIGIEBURN'S women's Big V basketball team is stepping up its preparations for its first season in Division 1 with a series of practice games. Last weekend the Eagles went down to Werribee 62-54, having two weeks earlier beaten former Division 1 team Whittlesea City. The Eagles have retained captain Kellie Bailey, 2006 Division 2 All-Star Five players Jacinta Scott and Brooke Davenport as well as forward Tracey Curran and centre Kylie Davies. They have picked up former Whittlesea City and Coburg forward Elise Swan. Coach Warren Taylor, who took the Eagles to the Division 2 title last year, said the players gave a good account of themselves against bigger opponents. The Eagles were within one point of Werribee with 90 seconds remaining before the margin blew out again. "The jump to Division 1 is a big one but if the girls can show the heart and desire they did on Sunday throughout the season, all opponents will need to respect them," Taylor said. The Eagles were on camp in Rosebud at the weekend, which included a practice game against Southern Peninsula. They start their season on Saturday, March 24 at Sunbury.

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