

RESERVOIR

VicRoads rejects kinder's push on speed limit

PARENTS of children at a Reservoir kindergarten are so worried about traffic they fear it is only a matter of time before someone is hurt.

Darebin Childcare and Kindergarten, on Kenilworth St, is opposite two driveways

accessing a Coles supermarket carpark.

The kinder's committee of management treasurer, Suzie Britton, said the group had approached Darebin Council about a speed restriction, but was

told the issue fell under VicRoads' jurisdiction.

The roads authority has since said the stretch could not be turned into a 40km/h zone because that limit was reserved for schools only.

The committee has taken

on board suggestions from the council to make the kinder stand out more by erecting large, colourful placards on the fence.

City works and development director Michael Ballock said the council was

aware of the safety concerns.

"Council has committed to improving speed limit and warning signage on the street, and running the speed-reduction program 'Not So Fast' in Kenilworth St," he said.

fast lane



Help fix jams

ARE traffic jams and public transport delays making you see red? Then join the RACV Leader Redspot survey and tell us about the bottlenecks by filling in the survey on p13 or going to redspotsurvey.com.au

Jane Austen treat

GET ready for an evening of reading, writing and romance Jane Austen style. Actor Lise Rodgers will perform at Preston Library on Wednesday, July 11, in full period costume. She will draw on sections of Austen novels *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*, as well as the author's correspondence, to help the audience learn more about Austen's life views. At 266 Gower St, from 7-8pm.

NAIDOC Week

DAREBIN Council will celebrate its Aboriginal residents this week. As part of NAIDOC Week, arts created by elders and students from NMIT's Indigenous Arts Unit will be on display at Bundoora Homestead Art Gallery, 27 Snake Gully Drive, until Saturday. The council is holding a tea tomorrow 10.30-11.30 at the Darebin Intercultural Centre, 59A Roseberry Ave, Preston. Details: 8470 8464.

take a number 50

WAS the score that earned Parade College 2011 VCE student Timothy Koussas a Premier's VCE Award at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre last week. He received the perfect score for the subject mathematical methods, received an ATAR score of 93.6 and now studies science at La Trobe University in Bundoora.

RESERVOIR

Drivers face disaster



Jim Andriopoulos spent \$462,000 on his taxi licence and says he will lose his livelihood and his home if the Government introduces open market licences. Picture: ADAM ELWOOD N01PT308

Madeline Healey

FELS REJECTS CLAIMS OF FUTURE CATASTROPHES

RESERVOIR cabbie Jim Andriopoulos says he stands to "lose everything" if the State Government was to introduce open market taxi licences.

The 29-year-old mortgaged his family home to buy his taxi licence for \$462,000 in 2006.

But he now fears for the future of his investment, after an independent inquiry into the Victorian taxi

industry recommended making metro licences available for only \$20,000 a year for five years.

Mr Andriopoulos said if the plan was adopted, the market would be flooded with taxis and the extra competition — coupled with the falling value of his licence — could see him lose his home, cab and career.

"This is my livelihood,

this is what puts bread on the table," Mr Andriopoulos said.

Taxi Industry Shareholders Victoria treasurer George Yannas said hundreds of owner drivers in Melbourne would face significant financial hardship.

But the taxi inquiry chair, Prof Allan Fels, said owner-operators were the victims of a scare campaign by large

scale taxi investors who were trying to "promote their own agendas".

"The facts are that existing licences will continue to be worth a significant amount of money and will be a solid investment," he said.

Are independent taxi drivers' livelihoods at risk? prestonleader.com.au

AT A GLANCE

- **March 2011:** Premier Ted Baillieu announces an independent inquiry
- **May 2012:** A draft report is released with 145 recommendations
- **July 13:** Public submissions on the draft report close
- **Details:** taxiindustry.inquiry.vic.gov.au

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