

May 2024

# Community Update

## Leopold Toy Library

Last month I had the pleasure of dropping into Leopold Toy Library to congratulate the incredible team for their successful grant application which will assist with purchasing new science related toys.

There is so much joy, and so many benefits from a toy library. They provide families with a wide variety of choice, for children of all ages, allowing babies and kids to have the joy of imaginative play, educational learning, and outright fun. Families also save money and can return borrowed toys when their child's interest change.

If you have young children in your life, perhaps you're a parent, a grandparent or an auntie or uncle, I cannot recommend toy libraries enough!

## Orange Door Network Bellarine Access Point

It's important that there are local services available for everyone if things at home or in a relationship are not ok and help and support are required.

Last year, The Orange Door network opened a new access point in Drysdale, meaning adults, children and families living in the Bellarine don't have to travel far to access coordinated family violence and child wellbeing services.

The Orange Door network provides access to coordinated help and support for people experiencing family violence, and for families needing support for the wellbeing and development of their children.

This means people can get the different areas of assistance they need in once place locally, where safety and confidentiality is paramount.

The landmark Royal Commission into Family Violence handed down 277 recommendations to improve Victoria's response to family violence. The Orange Door network was one of those key recommendations, and has assisted people and families across Victoria, including 156,000 children since it began in 2018.

The Orange Door network is a free service doesn't require a referral. They can be contacted on 1800 312 820 or via [barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au](mailto:barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au) from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. More information is available at their website: [www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au](http://www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au)

I acknowledge there is more to do when it comes to family violence reform, and our government is committed to a future that allows all Victorians, particularly women and children to be safe, healthy and free of violence.

