

MOONEE PONDS



Natalie Baxter from the Brotherhood of St Laurence models an outfit from the Moonee Ponds store.

Picture: SARAH MATRAY

New pledge to embrace old passion

BUYING old has become the new trend as informed shoppers vow to purchase only preloved items this month.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence has encouraged residents to take the Buy Nothing New Month pledge in October to save money and the environment.

Spokeswoman Natalie

Baxter, who is taking the pledge for the first time, said it had made her question every purchase.

"Every time you whip your wallet out now you think, 'Should I buy that?'" Ms Baxter said.

"I think about if I need it and if I do need it I will go to the op-shop."

Ms Baxter said Moonee Valley residents were lucky to have a "department store-sized" op-shop in Moonee Ponds, which also has a special vintage section.

"What some people think no longer looks good on them or are no longer in fashion others think is awesome," she said.

The Brotherhood believes almost 20 million tonnes of waste goes to landfill.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence store is at 24 Margaret St, Moonee Ponds. Other op-shops include Vinies, 155 Maribyrnong Rd, Ascot Vale, and Christ Church Essendon, 1086 Mt Alexander Rd, Essendon.

MOONEE PONDS

Birth of a new HQ

GROUP ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE

Linh Ly

PREGNANCY and family support service Caroline Chisholm Society has launched a campaign to continue its operations in Moonee Valley.

The organisation wants to renovate an Essendon building into its new headquarters after it could no longer operate at its former Park St premises.

Chief executive Helen Cooney said they needed to raise a further \$500,000 to turn the former mower shop on Mt Alexander Rd into a space fit for pregnancy and family counselling.

"It's a dingy warehouse, so we would like to turn it into a welcoming environment for the organisation," Ms Cooney said.

"It'll allow us to serve the community that we've served for over 40 years."

The organisation, which is operating out of a leased of-

fice in Shuter St, Moonee Ponds, supports pregnant women and those with young families.

It also provides counselling services and donated goods such as prams, bassinets and clothing.

Ms Cooney said the Essendon building needed consultation rooms and an area for volunteers installed.

She said it was important they remained in an area well-served by public transport so they were accessible.

"We are dealing with particularly vulnerable families who are unlikely to have access to cars," Ms Cooney said.

Caroline Chisholm Society will run stalls at Puckle St, Moonee Ponds, on October 24 and Wallis Mall, Niddrie, on November 7 to fundraise.

Donations can be made via carolinechisholmsociety.com.au

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