

MOONEE VALLEY

Council opts to review chief's position

MOONEE Valley Council will review Neville Smith's position as chief executive, with his five-year contract due to expire in six months.

Mr Smith was appointed to the position in 2010 after serving as chief executive at Melton Shire for a decade.

On April 28, Moonee Valley Council set up a special committee responsible for either reappointing the chief executive or advertising the position in the lead-up to Mr Smith's contract ending on November 14.

The council remained

tight-lipped about whether or not Mr Smith's contract had been renewed, with Mayor Narelle Sharpe only confirming that all councillors were appointed to the committee responsible for the decision.

"Information discussed at

the meeting is confidential and therefore I cannot release any further information at this stage," Cr Sharpe said.

But *Moonee Valley Leader* understands councillors resolved to advertise the position.

Columnist Alan Murphy said only three Moonee Valley councillors supported Mr Smith's immediate reappointment after he made a presentation for a contract renewal.

See page 14 for Mr Murphy's full report.

KEILOR EAST

Film screening supports cause

LYME disease documentary *Under Our Skin* will be shown at HR Stevens Music Centre on June 4. Money raised helps Strathmore's Amy O'Sullivan, undergoing treatment in Germany. Details: tickedoff.net.au

MOONEE VALLEY

Wait for winter warmth

CHARITIES SEEK ITEMS TO HAND OUT AS SEASONAL PEAK PUTS STRAIN ON SUPPLIES

Linh Ly

FAMILIES and individuals in need of warm clothes and blankets are being put on waiting lists as Moonee Valley charities struggle to cope with growing demand.

Helping Hands Mission chief executive Melanie Kent said the need for material aid and emergency relief was higher than ever and the charity would welcome more donations.

"It's worse than last year and as the weather starts to turn we always see a peak. We work with about 40 other charities who refer their clients to us for material aid," Ms Kent said.

"Normally we're able to meet demand but we have a waiting list at the moment."

The charity provides material aid and emergency support from its Airport West warehouse and also operates op-shops in Airport West and Keilor East to raise money from donated goods.

Ms Kent said more pensioners were seeking help while there was an increase in the number of mums with schoolchildren trying to buy second-hand and cheap goods from their op-shops.

She said despite having more donations than ever, they were not able to meet demand and particularly needed warm blankets, jumpers and canned food.

"It's always a bit of a Catch 22, when the weather starts



Helping Hands Mission volunteers Ian Roberts, Larni Hinch and Gerry Peel with some of the items the charity needs more of.

Picture: ADAM ELWOOD

to warm up, people donate their winter clothes and blankets so at the moment we've got a huge amount of summer stock coming in," Ms Kent said.

Caroline Chisholm Society chief executive Helen Cooney said the family support service, which provides

aid to pregnant women and mothers, could do with more warm clothes for children aged under four.

"The need for this stuff is so high that we have a waiting list for four weeks," Ms Cooney said.

Wintringham Housing is seeking doonas and covers,

jackets, jumpers and meal vouchers to support residents aged over 50 who are financially disadvantaged or at risk of homelessness.

Spokeswoman Julia Mazur said elderly residents were also put at risk of becoming socially isolated as the weather became colder,

which could lead to depression or falling into bad habits such as drinking.

"Very few of them would have family support and networks," Ms Mazur said.

Donations such as outdoor heaters and vouchers for holidays would be useful, she said.

HOW TO DONATE

Caroline Chisholm Society: New or good-quality preloved winter clothes for children aged under four. Donate them at 12 Shuter St, Moonee Ponds, between 10am-3pm on Fridays. The society is also seeking other baby-related or maternity items such as prams specifically for newborns, and bassinets.

Helping Hands Mission: Blankets, winter clothing such as jumpers, and canned food. Donate items at 492 Fullarton Rd, Airport West, between 10am and 4pm on weekdays and 10am and 1pm on Saturday.

Wintringham Housing: Double bed doona and covers, jackets, woollen jumpers, food and supermarket vouchers, outdoor heaters and any vouchers for social activities during the cold. Donate at 136 Mt Alexander Rd, Flemington, between 9am and 5pm on weekdays.

Ozanam House: Starves, hats, gloves, jumpers, coats, blankets and toiletries would support men and women experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Donations can be made to Ozanam House, 179 Flemington Rd, North Melbourne, from 9am to 5pm on weekdays.

LOADS OF CLASSES

like Adrenaline, Hardcore Abs, UFC FIT™, Yoga, Cardio Kickboxing, Zumba®, Hip Hop, Burlesque Dolls, Pilates, Pound™, 360Warrior & more.

TONS OF EQUIPMENT

like 100 Pieces of Cardio, Tons of Resistance Equipment & Free Weights, Olympic Rings, Kettlebells, TRX®, Power 1/2 Hour Circuit and Personal Training

JOIN TODAY FOR A SWEET DEAL!
\$8 Enrolment Fee & only \$6.95 weekly. Whaaaaat?

*Conditions apply. See Club for details.

crunch.com.au/highpoint

ON-SITE CHILD MINDING

ENDS FRIDAY 29 MAY

Highpoint Shopping Centre
Access from Aquatic Drive
Ph 8692 8100

CRUNCH FITNESS