

Retail strips to receive cash splash

About 52 hubs to share \$22m in funding

Shopping | Tessa Hoffman

MILLIONS of dollars will be pumped into Moreland's shopping strips after Moreland Council passed a reworked policy.

Councillors last week adopted the Shopping Strip Renewal Policy, which will see \$22 million funnelled into about 52 local convenience strips by 2023.

It is anticipated the first strips in line for work will be announced in November.

The policy seeks to beautify local shopping strips, boost business and create new jobs and encourage private investment.

Under the policy the biggest strips will get the most attention, partially funded by a special charge on traders.

The shopping hub at the intersection of Melville Rd and Bell St is among 16 strips to be partially funded by the charge, which will see businesses each pay \$17 a week over 10 years.

Recently renovated strips or those in major activity centres, such as Sydney Rd, are exempt from the policy.

The council will be unable to reap revenue from paid parking as planned new parking meters are at least a decade away, while a plan to use a developer contribution scheme to help foot the bill is under consideration.

Strips would be prioritised based on factors including overall condition, proximity, number of empty shops, potential for investment opportunities and food security.

Cr Kathleen Matthews-Ward welcomed the policy.

"It will be good for Moreland residents to have walkable access to viable and attractive shopping centres that offer a range of employment opportunities and goods and services," she said.

 **What works are needed at your local shopping strip? Tell us at morelandleader.com.au**



Lou Harvey-Zahra will present her new book, about reducing oppositional behaviour in children, at Coburg Library this month. Picture: MATT MURPHY N07CO402

Taming toddler tantrums

MOST parents have locked horns with a toddler over a toothbrush.

But injecting fun into your child's routine can dramatically reduce oppositional behaviour, according to parenting educator and mum-of-two Lou Harvey-Zahra.

She will present her new book *Turning Tears into Laughter: Creative Discipline for the Toddler and Preschool Years* at Coburg library this month.

The Warrandyte author said the secret was turning everyday activities such as getting dressed or brushing teeth into games.

"Children love hear about themselves, so as you clean each tooth you tell a tale about that day like this tooth ate cornflakes, this tooth went to the park," she said.

The free talk is on Tuesday, August 23, at 7pm. Bookings are essential on 9353 4000.

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● Win tickets

ESCAPING the city to spend some time outdoors is a dream shared by many people. The National 4x4 & Outdoors Show, Fishing and Boating Expo, which runs from September 2-4 at the Melbourne Showgrounds, offers something for every leisure enthusiast, whether their passion lies on land or on the water. Leader has 30 family passes, each worth \$50, to giveaway. To enter, go to morelandleader.com.au by 5pm Wednesday, August 24.

● Name the pup

MORE than 900 suggested names for the Leader pup have been received. Guide Dogs Victoria has vetted the names and readers can vote on a shortlist. One lucky voter will win a \$100 merchandise voucher. To vote, go to morelandleader.com.au by 5pm, Wednesday August 24.