

MDT opening marks start of spending on program

By **ANDY BENNETT***

AS outlined on the front page of this edition of *Brighton Community News*, Premier and Minister for Education and Skills David Bartlett officially opened Bridgewater High School's new MDT centre last month.

The event marked the first expenditure of funds under the Bridgewater and Southern Midlands Educational Renewal program.

The \$850,000 centre includes a new purpose-built workshop, a computer design studio and improvements to a classroom and teacher resource areas.

It is already providing an outstanding environment for engaging students in innovative applied learning.

An example was the display of bicycles that students had converted to petrol-driven machines.

It was easy to imagine how the bike-conversion experience could be the start of careers in motor mechanics or engineering.

A large group of community members, local business representatives, school principals, teachers and students, local council representatives, senior government officers and local politicians met recently at the Brighton Civic Centre to hear about developments with the Trade Training Centre.

It was also an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of the consortium of schools and businesses from the Brighton and Southern Midlands areas who worked with the Tasmanian Polytechnic on our successful application for Australian Government funding of up to \$4.25 million to construct the centre.

The Trade Training Centre will be built on the Bridge-



Premier David Bartlett and Learning Federation manager Andy Bennett with Brighton High's Brighton Junior Council mayor Helen Davidson and deputy mayor Brayden White. The BJC is Bridgewater High's student representative body.

water High School campus and will be an integral part of the federation's grade nine to 12 and adult learning programs.

It will include three large workshops and an outdoor learning area and open garden section.

Learners will be provided with practical and real training in areas ranging from cabinet-making and carpentry to metal and non-metal trades, engineering, auto-electrical and mechanical and horticulture and agriculture.

Plans for the buildings have been completed and, pending final planning approval, construction will begin in September.

Following our call for

expressions of interest, the first meeting of the federation community advisory group was held at the Civic Centre at the end of July. The group is a very important part of our community consultations.

The group is made up of local residents and is chaired by Brighton Council community liaison officer John Klug.

Members of the community group are Janita Groombridge, Jonathon Field, Bojana Gasparovich, Linda McKenzie, Leanne Rimon, Ronda Cockshutt, Louise Harrington, Sean Grice, Shane Denny, Karen Drew, Danielle Hall, Maree Bennett and John Klug.

The group will meet

monthly or as needed and is keen to hear your thoughts on the federation.

The Bridgewater and Southern Midlands Learning Federation website is up and running. The address is www.education.tas.gov.au/basmllearningfederation

The site provides background and updates on federation progress. There is also a feedback page for you to register your comments and suggestions.

Alternatively you can email your comments to bsm.learningfederation@education.tas.gov.au

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