

Work set to start on primary schools upgrade

By **ANDY BENNETT***

EARLIER this month Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that schools in the Bridgewater area will receive a total of \$6.5 million under the second round of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution Primary Schools for the 21st Century program.

This is a wonderful result that will see extensive refurbishment of existing facilities and construction of new buildings at our primary schools and the new middle school.

At Gagebrook Primary, plans are well advanced for the development of a renovated library, a technology studio and an applied learning centre.

At Herdsmans Cove Primary, funding will be used to renovate the library, upgrade the school hall and

improve facilities for the early years program.

At East Derwent Primary, there will be significant improvements to the multi-purpose hall and the library and renovations to create more flexible learning spaces.

Funding allocated to the middle school development will be used to build a multi-purpose gymnasium.

Plans for the primary school improvements are being finalised and the tender process for engaging building contractors will begin in the last week of June. Building work will begin as early as the end of July.

For more information about what is happening at your child's school, please contact your local school principal.

We are developing our plans for the educational programs in the Bridgewater and Southern Midlands



Much-need funding for Hersman's Cove Primary: from left, principal Carolyn Brown, Learning Federation manager Andy Bennett, education consultant Mike Middleton and acting principal Chris Gee.

Learning Federation.

On June 15 a workshop was held with all the staff from federation schools to continue developing plans for the education program that will be delivered in the federation.

Information gathered at the workshop will provide strong input into what is called the Educational Concept Brief.

The brief will define what learning programs the federation will offer and organisational arrangements and will have a major impact on the design of buildings and facilities.

While the brief will continue to develop, a strong

working outline should be completed by the end of July.

Community advisory group

In the last edition of the Brighton Community News we advertised for expressions of interest in joining a community advisory group.

The group, which will be chaired by Brighton Council community liaison officer John Klug, will collect feedback and provide advice at crucial stages in the development of the federation.

For example, the group will give advice about plans to establish, locate and build various services. The group will also advise on the need and means for further consulta-

tion with the community.

The group will be vital as the pace of development increases over the next 18 months. If you are interested please contact me, Andy Bennett, at Bridgewater High School on 6262 5500.

A website is being created to provide more information about the federation. The website will be up and running by the end of the month.

The web address for the project will be www.education.tas.gov.au/basmlearningfederation

**Andy Bennett is the manager of the Bridgewater/Brighton Learning Federation.*