

Building begins on first phase of Learning Federation campus

By **ANDY BENNETT***

BY the time this edition of *Brighton Community News* is published there will be some very significant developments at the Bridgewater campus of the federation.

We are in the final stages of tender negotiations with builders for the contract to start building some of the new facilities on the site of the current Bridgewater High School.

The first phase of the building program will see the construction of the new gymnasium and science centre.

The gymnasium will be built on Eddington Street between the school driveway and the intersection with Green Point Road.

Our aim is to provide an excellent gymnasium for our students as well as being available to the entire community outside school hours.

The science centre will be the first part of our new grade 9-12 and adult learning centre. Work on both buildings should begin by mid-November.

The trade training centre design has been submitted to the Brighton Council for planning approval.



Pooling their ideas for the design of the school on the Bridgewater campus of the Learning Federation are, from left, Phil Oddie, teacher at Bridgewater High School; Tanya Kerfoot, SEO at Bridgewater High School; Leanne Wakerell, parent East Derwent Primary; Mayor Tony Foster; Tim Claridge, assistant principal at Bridgewater High School; and students Tamineka Fisher, Bridgewater High School, Sharnie-Lee Clark, East Derwent Primary and Codie Clark, Bridgewater High School.

The call for tenders for this construction will follow once planning approval is given.

We are continuing to consult with our students, parents, staff and community representatives for the design of the grade 9-12 and Adult Learning Centre.

Our first consultation workshop was held at the Brighton Civic Centre on Thursday October 15 and was an outstanding success.

The workshops are being facilitated by our architects Elvio Brianese and Simon

Dunne, from Forward Brianese and Partners.

An ongoing series of workshops is planned to support the design process.

Design work on the first phase of the alterations to the current high school for the new middle school program is about to start.

Primary school building program

Construction of the new flexible learning areas at East Derwent has progressed well. Students and staff should be able to start working in the new area before the end of the school year.

The renovation of the classrooms at Herdsmans Cove Primary is also well under way.

The new early learning spaces will be a great place for our youngest children and their families to learn and play together.

Federation vision

It is time for us to consolidate all the thinking, research and different views of what we want our federation to provide into one vision.

To begin that process we held a school and local com-

munity workshop in early November.

The workshop was facilitated by Prof Brian Caldwell who has been a friend and adviser to our project since the BASMERT consultation process was held early last year.

There is some work to be done on the final draft of the vision and an early draft will be available for further comment very soon.

Big Picture School

The first of our Big Picture School teaching teams has been selected.

Congratulations to Andrew McKay, David Flanagan, Mandy Gardner and Phil Oddie who, from 2010, will work with our first group of Big Picture students made up mainly of our current grade eight students.

The team, led by Cluny Addis, has started intensive professional learning to ensure we are ready to get off to a big start at the beginning of next year.

We will hold a Big Picture School information evening for parents, students and interested community members on November 19 at the Brighton Civic Centre.

To view building plans and drawings visit our federation website at www.education.tas.gov.au/bsmlearningfederation where you will find further information about our design workshops, the Big Picture School and our federation vision.

Your comments are welcome. Alternatively, you can email your comments to bsm.learningfederation@education.tas.gov.au

**Andy Bennett is manager of the Bridgewater and Southern Midlands Learning Federation*