**Winter coats to warm little hearts**

David jeans

A HEATHMONT mother is reaching out to the community to help keep disadvantaged children warm. Felicity Tucker is helping to gather 2000 coats for disadvantaged babies and children as part of the annual St Kilda Mums coat drive.

St Kilda Mums is a volunteer organisation which collects nappy changing equipment and children’s clothing for social services to distribute to disadvantaged children and families.

Mr Tucker said the initiative was to keep children happy during the cold winter months.

“We do it so children are warm, so able to go outside in the rain, so that they can play outside and be happy, normal children,” she said.

“They are for disadvantaged kids, maybe a family who has escaped a family violence situation, a refugee family or a young homeless mum,” Mr Tucker said.

The state’s worst bridge location for truck crashes - Napier St, Footscray - has been struck 43 times since 2010.

Maribyrnong Mayor Niam Quach said he wanted height detection cameras, a warning system, increased fines and night curfews for non-local trucks on Buckley and Napier streets.

RINGWOOD

Drivers strike out

FOCUS ON RAIL BRIDGE CRASHES

TWO rail bridges in the area have been identified in the state’s top 10 worst locations for truck crashes.

Now Metro Trains statistics show the Warrandyte Rd and Warrandyte Rd rail bridges have been struck 15 and 12 times respectively between 2012-15.

Maribyrnong Council Mayor Teo Dib said extra warning strategies and infrastructure improvements would be welcomed.

“The rail bridges are not council assets, but the council is aware of the issues with trucks and bridge structures,” Cr Dib said.

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But VicRoads metro south coast regional director Adrian McCann said the council needed to be put onto drivers, saying they had to be “seriously aware of the height limits of trucks on their routes, as well as the height of their vehicles”.

Metros spokesman Pauline O’Connor said bridge strikes occurred “far too often”, leading to significant repair costs and major delays for commuters.

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