

ORMOND

fast lane

Crossing no walkover

Bullying exposed

THE Caulfield South based B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission will tackle bullying at a breakfast at the St Kilda Town Hall next month. Safe Futures chief executive Janine Mahoney; 2014 Victorian of the Year John Caldwell; and the Wise Angels Foundation's Sahar Ghaly will share personal journeys at the meeting titled "Imagine an Australia Without Bullying". The breakfast is on October 14 between 10.30am to 12.30pm. Tickets: trybooking.com

Aboriginal talks

THE Jewish Community Council of Victoria is holding a free Aboriginal Constitutional Recognition Forum in Caulfield South. Speakers will discuss the Aboriginal Constitutional recognition debate. It will be moderated by Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission chairman John Searle. At 7.30pm, October 11 at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Rd. Bookings: david@jccv.org.au or 9272 5579.



Paul and Lauren Fink (centre) with Oscar, 2, and mums backing Mr Fink's campaign for a crossing.

Picture: KRIS REICHL

GRANGE RD INTERSECTION AN 'ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN'

Andrea Kellett

PAUL Fink takes one step at a time these days, or at least he is supposed to.

The 36-year-old Carnegie dad and Maccabi AJAX Cricket Club legend is learning to walk and talk again after a near-fatal stroke 18 months ago.

When his speech therapist advised him to take on a small project during his recovery, the word "small" didn't register for the former club president, captain and chairman of selectors.

He started a petition for pedestrian lights "or at least a pedestrian crossing" at the busy intersection of Grange and Oakleigh roads that is near his home and across from the local kindergarten.

He has been doorknocking, lobbying elected representatives and whipping up community support for pedestrian safety.

He and about 200 supporters who have signed his petition say the intersection is a pedestrian thoroughfare without protection and an accident waiting to happen.

Ormond Community Kindergarten is on the corner, Glen Huntly Primary School is 550m away, it is a route to nearby Packer Park and families and walkers dodge traffic there every day.

The dad to Oscar, 2, and his wife Lauren say the nearest safe pedestrian crossings – an overpass at Glen Huntly Primary School and lights 750m away at North Rd – are "much too far away".

"There have been countless near misses, both pedestrian and vehicular, with

several accidents actually occurring," Mr Fink said.

Ormond Community Kindergarten teacher Vicky Carr said a crossing was urgently needed. "We've been trying to get something done about a crossing for several years," she said.

VicRoads Metro South East transport and planning director Con Stasinos said the agency was investigating. "We are developing a proposal for improvements (to pedestrian safety) at this intersection," Mr Stasinos said.

Milestone event

BRIGHTON Cemetery will celebrate 160 years of history with an open day on October 18, 10am to 4pm. The cemetery is at the corner of North and Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield South. More: 9272 4248 or info@brightoncemeterians.org