

SUNSHINE

Cafe faces closure

COMMUNITY URGED TO RALLY BEHIND LEISURE CENTRE EATERY

Alesha Capone

A COMMUNITY advocate has urged the people of Brimbank to fight a proposal to close the Sunshine Leisure Centre's cafe.

Last week Brimbank Council's acting director of community wellbeing Kath Brackett confirmed the council had consulted with staff about a proposal "to permanently close the cafe".

"The Sunshine Leisure Centre cafe started operat-

ing in 2007 when the centre was redeveloped," Ms Brackett said.

"The sales made from the cafe are significantly lower than its running costs.

"If the decision to close the cafe is made, all affected staff would be advised of the decision and offered redundancy or redeployment options in line with council's EB (enterprise bargaining) agreement."

Ms Brackett said if the cafe was closed, the leisure

centre's patrons would also be informed.

A source, who asked not to be named, told *Leader* that the cafe would potentially be replaced with "several vending machines".

The president of the Sunshine Residents and Ratepayers Association Darlene Reilly said many users of the leisure centre, such as parents of children learning to swim and senior citizens who took part in aqua aerobics classes, enjoyed meet-

ing at the cafe. "I think the pool should have some kind of cafe and I think many ratepayers would feel the same way," Ms Reilly said.

"I'd hate to see that it was closed down and if that's the case, the community should rally to save it."

Ms Reilly suggested that instead of shutting down the cafe, the council could tender out its operation to a private business, on the proviso that all existing employees could stay on.

HILLSIDE



Australian musician John St Peeters is helping to raise money and awareness of depression and homelessness. Picture: MARK WILSON

Legends band together to sing for good

AUSTRALIAN performer John St Peeters is singing for good and he wants everyone to join in.

The Hillside musician shot to prominence in the 1970s and '80s with songs like *Deep Inside of Me*, *High Class Woman*, *So Many Ways* and *Wonderworld*.

Mr St Peeters has thrown his support behind the global community singing

movement, Sing for Good. He has written a song titled *Legends of the Southern Land* to help fundraise for the campaign, after hearing the tune while dreaming.

Sing for Good aims to raise money for people experiencing depression, unemployment and homelessness through Creativity Australia's With One Voice program.

Sing for Good is hoping 1000 people across Australia will submit online videos of themselves singing *Legends of the Southern Land* in an effort to raise \$50,000.

Mr St Peeters recorded the song with other Australian performers John Swan, Marty Rhone, Ray Burgess, Tommy Emmanuel and composer Michael Yule.

The group also tours to-

gether under the name Legends of the Southern Land.

Some Sing For Good entrants will be selected to star on stage with the group and in the song's music video.

Entry into the Legends project is by a donation of \$25 or more to Sing for Good by October 31.

Details: singforgood.org, legendsofthesouthernland.com or iTunes.

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