

News

DATE: 28/11/07



Manningham Mayor Ron Kitchingman (holding sign) with Manningham University of the Third Age members who will call the new The Pines Learning and Activity Centre home.

All set with their \$7m centre

THE \$7.3 million The Pines Learning and Activity Centre opened last week.

Manningham's newest multi-purpose centre, to house Manningham University of the Third Age (U3A) and Donvale Living and Learning Centre, is likely to service about 1500 residents.

It is one of the council's most significant investments in a community centre, which was helped by \$660,000 in State Government grants and \$600,000 from the Federal Government.

Manningham Mayor Ron Kitchingman, who opened

the centre with state and federal MPs last Wednesday, said the 1900sq m facility would provide a permanent home for two valued community groups.

"The state-of-the-art classrooms and activity rooms will enable hundreds of local residents to learn new skills and enjoy the company of other Manningham residents," he said.

"The site will also be home to the Manningham Concert Band, whose musicians can now fine-tune their performances in rooms that possess impressive acoustics."

Cr Kitchingman said the council earmarked the site for a community centre in 1994 as it had good public transport access and space for more than 140 car spaces.

U3A president Bridget Halge said she was happy the organisation had found a permanent home.

"It is convenient to have one location as opposed to numerous other locations," she said.

"We are very happy with how the building looks. And we have been told it has been built using environmentally sustainable principles."