

Breast Cancer Network's Lyn Swinburn was the 2007 Melburnian of the Year

## QUICKNEWS

## Tank at Shrine

AN estimated 15 million litres of water a year will be saved when an underground water tank is installed on the grounds of the Shrine of Remembrance. The tank will treat water from the Shrine's roof and terraces and pump the supply into watering the reserve's 250 commemorative trees, ceremonial lawns and gardens.

## Weight study

RESEARCHERS from RMIT University need volunteers to take part in the second stage of a weight-loss study. The study aims to evaluate the benefits of Chinese herbal medicine. It is a collaboration between RMIT and the China Medical University in Taiwan. Details: Dr George Lenon, 9925 6587 or email [george.lenon@rmit.edu.au](mailto:george.lenon@rmit.edu.au)

## Roads revamp

YARRA Council has rescheduled its public meeting to discuss the planned \$18 billion revamp of Melbourne's roads and rail network (*Leader*, April 6). The new date is May 12 from 7pm at the Collingwood Town Hall.

# Feeding the homeless

## MELBOURNE AWARDS

Nadia Salemme

HOMELESS Melburnians get a helping hand from Fitzroy-based food service SecondBite, a nominee in the 2008 Melbourne Awards.

The volunteer-run organisation sources fresh raw food from the city's markets and wholesalers, and distributes it to community groups, including the Sacred Heart Mission and St Mary's House of Welcome.

SecondBite executive director Katy Barfield said the service collected meat, fish, fruit, vegetables and deli goods from suppliers such as the Queen Victoria, Prahran and South Melbourne markets.

"We pick food up that's going to waste and transport it in refrigerated vans. We provide the raw ingredients but don't actually cook the meals," Ms Barfield said.

She said the Brunswick St organisation supplied 44 welfare agencies across the state and operated every day.

"People are hungry seven days a week, they're homeless seven days a week. There's a lot of need out there," Ms Barfield said.

"It (homelessness) seems to be growing".

In the past 12 months,



AWARD CONTENDERS: (from left) Keryn Thomas, Russell Shields and Katy Barfield of SecondBite at the Queen Victoria Market.

Picture: KYLIE ELSE N42ME202

SecondBite collected and distributed more than 100 tonnes of fresh produce and meat, providing the ingredients for more than 190,000 meals.

Ms Barfield said more than

312,000 families ran out of food in the state last year. "The most marginalised members of the community have got limited or no access to fresh food. We aim to change that," she said.

Ms Barfield said the St Vinnie's soup van in North Melbourne now served fresh soup, not instant, because it sourced vegies from SecondBite. The service, which started in 2005, oper-



## What are the awards about?

THE Melbourne Awards recognise individuals, community groups and corporations that make a contribution to the municipality of Melbourne. The winners, selected by an independent panel of industry leaders and professionals, will be announced at an awards ceremony at the Melbourne Town Hall on Melbourne Day, August 30. To nominate an individual or organisation, see [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/melbourneawards). Nominations close May 16.

ates under strict food safety guidelines and the state's Good Samaritan Act.

► For more info on SecondBite, see [www.secondbite.org](http://www.secondbite.org)