FLINDERS

Reach for the sky

Celeste Villani

MORITCHAM Council has backed a State Government plan to increase the height of a carpark approved for Flinders Medical Centre.

The council decided last week to support the government’s proposal to expand the carpark from five to seven storeys. The $13 million Flinders Drive carpark was approved in November, 2013.

Under the new proposal, there would be 1800 spaces, up from 1240. All but about 200 spaces would be allocat- ed to hospital staff.

“This would be a good de- cision given the parking problems in Bedford Park.” Mitcham Mayor Glenn Spear said of plans to lift the proposed building’s height by two storeys.

Bedford Park Residents Group president Reynold David said the extra parking spaces were long overdue.

“We are really delighted and 100 per cent behind this,” Mr David said. “It will serve us well, con- sidering we have been plagued with parking issues here.”

Residents have been cam- paigning for more parking in the Flinders precinct be- cause visitors to the hospital and university have been parking in side streets.

The plans are a part of the $171 million redevelopment of Flinders Medical Centre, which includes a new re- habilitation centre with 55 beds.

The Planning Department did not respond to Mitcham & Hills Messenger questions about when the carpark would be considered by the Development Assessment Commission or when it might be finished.

MITCHEM

Rising star is as cool as ice out on the court

Celeste Villani

A COOL, calm and collected court temperament is the key to winning tennis, Stefan Bianchet says.

Being calm under pres- sure helps Stefan, ranked the best Under-14 player in South Australia and seeded seventh nationally, stay ice-cool like his idol Roger Fed- erer.

The Mercedes College stu- dent will stick to his plan when he travels to Canberra to play in the junior Australian Clay Court Championships this weekend.

“Roger Federer is defi- nitely my favourite player because of his on court tem- perament and technique – he is just a great tennis play- er,” Stefan, 14, of Mitcham, says.

“When I am playing well, but also when I am mentally down in a match, I just think of him. He struggled men- tally when he was younger, but once he controlled his emotions he became the player he is today ... he re- alised his own potential.”

The Southern District Tennis Association player recently won the Under-14 section of the Rod Laver Queensland Junior Cham- pionships in Brisbane, co- menting his entry into the competition in Canberra.

Stefan looks forward to his debut at the clay court tournament, but will need to accustom himself to playing on the unfamiliar surface.

“The rallies are longer and the actual ball is slower too, so you can’t hit as many winners as frequently. But you just enjoy the game and let it take you where it goes.”

The competition is on from tomorrow until Wed- nesday, September 28.

FMC’S SEVEN-STOREY CARPARK

MITCHEM Mayor Glenn Spear said plans to lift the proposed building’s height by two storeys was a good decision given the parking problems in Bedford Park.

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