

ISOLATION CELEBRATIONS PAGES 14-15



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SPECIAL FEATURE — SPORT



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Geelong Advertiser

GEE LONG'S VOICE FOR 179 YEARS

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THINK HOME SCHOOLING'S TOUGH?
SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THIS MUM OF 11: P4

DOC'S SHOCK AT RACIST RANT

SICKENING ABUSE
'She said why are you here, go home'



TAMARA McDONALD

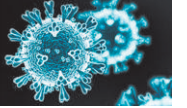
A GEE LONG doctor has been left in shock after a woman hurled racist abuse at him in public on the weekend.

Dr Ern Chang (pictured) was waiting for takeaway outside a Hamlyn Heights cafe when the woman launched the verbal attack.

"She said, 'Why are you here? Go home'," Dr Chang said. "She used the f-word at me a couple of times. And then she said, 'What's your name, I bet it's Lee?'" **REPORT: P4**

SHOOTOUT DRIVER FAILS IN VISA BID - PAGE 3

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



On Mum's watch, school's in for six kids

OLIVIA SHYING

STRUGGLING with homeschooling your children?

Spare a thought for supermum Ann O'Neill, who has become a teacher to six of her 11 off-spring.

The single mum has been studying the curriculums of the three different schools her children attend so she can be on hand to help them throughout the day.

At one end of the eight bedroom family home, Clairvaux

Primary School grade four pupil Sam, grade five George and year six pupil Max work under the watchful eye of mum-turned-teacher Ms O'Neill.

"It's pretty hectic," Ms O'Neill said.

"The secondary school children are fairly sufficient but I am often keeping an eye on the primary school-aged boys.

"You're stretching yourself from one to the other."

Set up in a separate room is

Sacred Heart College year nine student Alice and her older twin brothers Charlie and Harry, who attend year 10 at St Joseph's College.

Luckily, older siblings Maggie, 19, and 20-year-old Molly — both university students — are also around to help.

Ms O'Neill said it was challenging to run a house, work part-time and ensure the children had completed their school work.

But she admits, there are some benefits to homeschool-

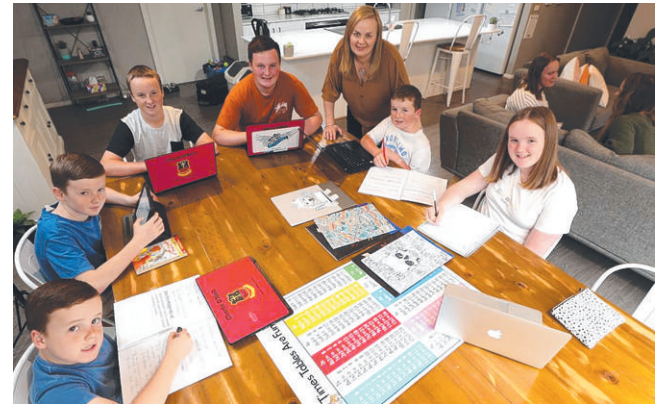
ing. "It's a more casual lifestyle, you're not hurrying in the morning making lunches and going to school. It is more relaxed," Ms O'Neill said.

"There are also no after-school activities, so it strengthens the family bond."

She said the O'Neill children had quickly adapted to homeschooling and hardly missed school.

"The novelty might wear off," Ms O'Neill said.

"They do miss their friends."



Ann O'Neill with Sam, 9, Max, 11, twins Charlie and Harry, 15, George, 10 and Alice, 14, who are all learning at home, helped by older siblings Maggie, 19 and Molly, 20 (pictured on the couch). Jack, 22, Tom, 17, and Ruby, 14 are absent. Picture: MIKE DUGDALE

VILE VERBAL ABUSE TOWARDS DOCTOR

'Best GP' racially attacked

TAMARA McDONALD

A POPULAR Geelong doctor was left shocked when a woman hurled racist abuse at him in public on the weekend.

The "sickening" verbal attack has been condemned by city leaders who have called for unity amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Ern Chang was waiting for takeaway outside a Hamlyn Heights cafe on Saturday when the woman, who was with a young child, verbally attacked him.

"Directed at me, she said, 'Why are you here? Go home'," said Dr Chang, practice principal at Family Doctors Highton.

"She used the f-word at me a couple of times.

"And then she said, 'What's your name, I bet it's Lee?'"

The woman, who had left a store, got in her car and drove off after the unprovoked attack, Dr Chang said.

"She seemed to have a chip on her shoulder," he said.

Another person in the queue turned to Dr Chang and said, "That was pretty racist, wasn't it?"

"He was kind and affirming and sympathised," Dr Chang said.

Geelong Advertiser readers last year voted the Singapore-born Dr Chang the region's best GP.

His family moved to Lorne in 2008 and came to Geelong in 2010.

Saturday's incident was the first time he had experienced racism in public in Geelong.

Dr Chang was inundated with support when he spoke out about the experience on social media, and urged people to bring out the best in humanity.

"I'm just feeling for the people of Asian descent who might not have the amount of support I have," he said. "I've got friends in Melbourne who don't want to go out in public."

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner Kristen Hilton said diversity had long been one of Victoria's strengths, and incidents of racism were not just inconsistent with shared values that unite the community, but also against the law.

"During this pandemic, we've seen the nature of racism complaints and inquiries intensify — from people who've experienced verbal abuse while travelling on public transport or shopping, to those who've been subjected to threats of physical violence, sometimes from people in their own neighbourhood," she said.

Geelong MP Christine Couzens said the abuse levelled at Dr Chang was sickening and unacceptable.

"I think generally Geelong is a fantastic community," she said. "It's certainly not representative of the broader community."

Diversity acting CEO Brian McMahon said the organisation's clients hadn't reported racist incidents as a result of coronavirus, but many had been having limited interactions due to social distancing. "It's been our experience that Geelong is broadly an accepting community, there's certainly been some exceptions over time," he said.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Victorian chair and Lara doctor Cameron Loy said Dr Chang was "an incredibly hardworking GP" and the abuse directed towards him was appalling.



TARGETED FOR BEING ASIAN: Geelong doctor Ern Chang was racially abused while waiting to pick up takeaway in Hamlyn Heights. Picture: MARK WILSON

\$50,000 funding for Food Relief

OLIVIA SHYING

THE city's most vulnerable residents will have more access to fresh food thanks to a \$50,000 boost to Geelong Food Relief Centre.

The City of Greater Geelong will provide the funding as part of a \$1.5 million package of business and community support measures aimed at helping the community through the coronavirus pandemic.

Geelong Food Relief Centre will use the funds to buy and store food which will then be distributed by welfare agencies throughout the region.

The council will also call for the State Government to contribute \$100,000 towards food relief for the Greater Geelong community.

Geelong Mayor Stephanie Asher said the financial boost comes on the back of the council's allocation of \$1 million in the 2019-20 budget to help in the long-term sustainability of food relief services in the region.

"This \$50,000 contribution from the council will help keep up with the demand, which tragically is likely to rise over the coming months as more people find themselves struggling to put food on the table through no fault of their own," Cr Asher said.

"We really hope the money will help local families get through this unbelievably tough time."

An independent Food Assistance Report, commissioned by the council, will be considered by councillors in May.

It will examine how the city can support and strengthen the existing network of selfless volunteers distributing food through the various agencies in Greater Geelong.

The council is considering leasing a food distribution site in North Geelong and will decide whether to take up the lease and fund the new centre once the recommendations of the Food Assistance Report have been considered.