

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crossing delights locals

14 December 2010

Residents in East Ivanhoe can now cross the Burke Road North roundabout with ease and enjoyment. Pedestrian crossing lights became operational on Friday 10 December. Locals welcomed this early Christmas present and have been delighted to use it in their journeys to neighbouring shops and facilities.

“East Ivanhoe Walking Action Group (EIWAG) played an instrumental role in securing the pedestrian crossing”, says Victoria Walks Executive Officer Dr. Ben Rossiter. “Victoria Walks proudly supported EIWAG’s campaign. This is a brilliant example of how concerted community effort can help make our local streets and neighbourhoods better for walking.”

“I can't tell you how fantastic it was to just press a button and know we can cross easily and safely!” said EIWAG member, Beth McKinlay.

Fellow EIWAG member Sandra Cooper agreed. “My 2 girls walked down to the local Ivanhoe East shopping village yesterday at peak traffic time in the afternoon, something they would not have been able to do before the pedestrian crossing installed, which was fantastic!”

“The pedestrian crossing will encourage more people to walk every day,” says Dr. Rossiter. “Walking has incredible health benefits. Walking is good for our physical, social and mental health. “

A recent study by VicHealth shows that parents are reluctant to let their children walk because of the dangers of heavy traffic. “The pedestrian crossing makes walking much safer and will go a long way to encourage children to walk more often. Children who walk to school are better off physically, socially and experience greater emotional wellbeing.”

Paul Rumpf, EIWAG’s former convenor (currently living overseas) conveyed his thanks to Councillor Jenny Mulholland, former state Member Craig Langdon, Members for Northern Metropolitan Region Matthew Guy and Greg Barber, and former Minister Tim Pallas for their support.

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About Victoria Walks

Victoria Walks Inc is a health promotion charity funded and supported by VicHealth. Our mission is more Victorians walking every day.

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