

They're cock a hoop in 'burbs

Aaron Langmaid

sports affair reporter

BASKETBALL is king of the 'burbs when it comes to the most popular sports Victorians want to play.

Aussie rules has been slammed dunked by the popular American pastime, which has exploded in popularity across Melbourne's fringe.

And with a whopping 35 per cent of Australia's registered players living in Melbourne's southeast corridor, basketball chiefs have warned there's no stopping the boom.

"It is truly international," Basketball Victoria CEO Wayne Bird said.

"The sport offers pathways to world championships and Olympics for all athletes.

"It's family orientated and can be played all year round and anywhere from a basketball stadium, to the ring above a garage door."

It's hoped a state basketball centre at Knox, set for completion next year, will help accommodate the huge appeal of the game in Melbourne's east.

The Australian Sports Commission's Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey showed more than 230,000 Victorians aged 15 and over squeeze into their trainers and run onto the basketball court every week, with soccer attracting more than 228,000 participants.

But it also revealed Victoria's love for footy hadn't abated, pulling in 220,000 participants.

Sport Minister James Merlino said Victorians were as active as ever.

"Our local grassroots sporting clubs are the heart and soul of our communities," Mr Merlino said.

"The latest report shows that Victorian sport remains strong — whether it's our indigenous game of Aussie rules, or netball, basketball, golf, soccer and cricket."

Nationally, soccer topped



Hoop happy: Daniel Smith and Simone Ruedin play for Eltham.

Victoria's most popular ...

Team sports

Basketball	230,000
Football (Australian rules)	220,000
Netball	220,000
Cricket	180,000
Soccer	128,000

Individual sports

Tennis	294,000
Golf	278,000
Yoga	146,000
Dancing	122,000
Horse riding	42,000

Recreational activities

Walking	1.5 million
(46 per cent of women; 25 per cent of men)	
Aerobics	1 million
Swimming	597,000
Cycling	551,000
Running	502,000

Source: Australian Sports Commission's Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey



heraldsun.com.au

Why do you think basketball is on the rise? Tell us

the poll with the biggest jump in popularity — up 52 per cent since 2001.

The biggest increase in the sport occurred during 2007 and '08.

But Aussie rules wasn't far

behind with a 38 per cent increase for the same period.

The survey showed football participation declined between 2005 and 2007, but increased from 2008 and 2009.

But in a sign the simple things are often the best, walking ranked the most popular recreational activity in Victoria with 1.5 million participants.

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VEAC

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

Notice of Preparation of Discussion Paper Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change has requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to carry out an investigation of Crown land and public authority land outside of largely-intact landscapes across Victoria to identify opportunities for ecological linkages.

The purposes of the investigation are to:

- identify and evaluate the condition, values, resources and uses of these areas of remnant native vegetation and associated fauna outside largely-intact landscapes

Man shot in I

A MAN was shot in the thigh at a public housing block in Melbourne early on Sunday.

A spokesman for Ambulance Victoria said

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