

Councils and community groups to get \$29m grants for security

Pledge to fight crime

Election | Kate Bruce-Rosser

COMMUNITY groups and councils will share in \$29 million under a "grassroots" program to tackle graffiti and prevent crime, if the Coalition is elected. Under the Community Crime Prevention Program, revealed exclusively to the *Leader*, the Coalition will spend \$25 million on safety grants and \$4 million on graffiti removal and prevention, including funding councils to remove graffiti within 24 hours from hot spots and along train lines.

Councils will receive grants of up to \$250,000 to help install closed-circuit television cameras and other security infrastructure. Up to \$10,000 will be available to community groups, sporting clubs and businesses for initiatives to make their neighbourhood safer, such as lighting, locks and fencing. Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu said the program would promote a grassroots approach where the communities led the fight against violence in Victoria.

"The Coalition knows that communities are best placed to find local solutions that work in their neighbourhoods," Mr Baillieu said. Under a similar program in Western Australia, funding has been made available for everything from security alarms and screens for community buildings, to hiring electronic signs for crime hot spots, displaying messages urging residents to take care and report suspicious activity. Premier John Brumby recently promised a re-elected

Labor government would allocate \$7.3 million to graffiti removal programs. A recent Roy Morgan poll revealed fewer than 10 per cent of Northcote voters rated reducing crime and law and order among their top three concerns. Almost 35 per cent ranked global warming and climate change and improving health services and hospitals among the three most important issues. Improving education was another major concern with almost 30 per cent rating it among their main concerns.

Net brings music and fans together

Music | Julia Irwin

SOCIAL networking technology is helping musicians hook up with their fans to fund new releases, bypassing recording companies. Preston musician Bobby Flynn is among artists taking this road, which he said allowed musicians to maintain independence and keep control over the end product. Flynn recently signed up with UK-based website platform Pledge Music, which gives fans incentives for making financial contributions to producing and marketing an artist's work. "The incentives can include anything from a digital download of the album (\$10) to having me play at a house party (\$1500)," Flynn said. "It's a good way for fans to join in on the recording journey." He said those who signed up received regular updates and video clips, as well as opportunities to comment on tracks as they were developed. The website platform enables fans to create a menu of exclusive content, which integrate with social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook. Later this month Flynn will launch his Pledge Music campaign with a live appearance at the Northcote Social Club, where he will preview some tracks from his second album. Flynn came to prominence as



Bobby Flynn is launching his new album at the Northcote Social Club.

an *Australian Idol* finalist in 2007 and followed up with his debut album, *Out Front*, in 2008. He said "production wizard" Pip Norman, from hip hop

act TZU, was working on the new album with him, which he promised would be full of fast, energetic tracks filled with the intensity of inner urban life.

► **Bobby Flynn is at the Northcote Social Club, December 1, from 8pm, with Goodnight Owl. Bookings: 9486 1677.**

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