

Narre Warren North's new village shopping centre opened last month to give the residents of the oak tree lined streets of the outer eastern Melbourne suburb it's first shopping centre.

Owners Marco and Annette Ciavarella have been operating in the district for more than 10 years in the old general store, the district's only shop, and have developed the new shopping centre with local developers Bernie and Lyall Seebeck . The family have spent three years designing the concept assisted by their former IGA representative and now store manager Joe Marolla.

Marco said the response from the locals has been extremely positive in welcoming their first shopping centre. The new facilities include a café and bakery attracting weekend breakfast visits from many locals out for a morning walk for their newspaper. The centre also encompasses a 100 space carpark and a full post office newsagency alongside the 1300sq m supermarket which boasts a continental delicatessen, encompassing a large take away section with delicious food made onsite by their own chef.

The supermarket carries all of their departments in an open plan, giving the store a presence of open space, light and magnificent views to the tree line streets the area is known for. The liquor department is also a major feature with ample room to promote feature carton displays.

It is easy to put up a building and call it a supermarket but so much more work goes into making a building a focal point of the community. It is a credit to the developers for their building design and quality, providing the Ciavarella family and the locals of Narre Warren North a supermarket and shopping centre that will service them for decades to come.

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Booking Form: www.mga.asn.au



ACT. Retailer Forum

MGA conducted a very successful independent supermarket owner / manager forum in Curtin ACT on the 12th November. A large contingent of passionate and dedicated retailers attended this meeting. Topics included; new ACT Tobacco Legislation, Liquor Code of Conduct, future changes in Workplace Relations Laws and Workplace Relations Agreements.

A number of voluntary packaged liquor MGA and ALSA Code of Conduct initiatives were presented to all members. All supermarkets in ACT are licensed to sell packaged liquor and those present recognized and acknowledged their obligations to serve alcohol responsibly.

Special guest, Senior Advisor for Tobacco to the ACT Health Minister, Nicola Clark, presented the new Tobacco Legislation effective in the ACT from 1st January 2010. Particular emphasis was placed upon discussing the "Removal of Tobacco Products from Display" and "Tobacco Licensing". It became clearly evident during discussions that retailers were confused with the new legislation. The ACT Department of Health had not considered a number of issues associated with actual practices that could occur in store owing to inadequate interpretation. This could put MGA members at risk of non compliance. MGA will communicate these issues to the ACT Health Minister with a view of establishing a committee of independent supermarket owners in ACT who are able to consult with the Department of Health in the process of refining interpretations of specific actions retailers must take, in order to be compliant with the new Tobacco Laws. Thanks ACT for an energetic and productive meeting!



ACT retailers attending the forum