

Activities Centre Opens

The Eric Hart Activities Centre at St Laurence Park Lara was opened on June 30 by Bishop Peter Hollingworth.

The centre, located between Flinders Lodge nursing home and Hume Court hostel for the frail aged, will provide a range of services for older and disabled people from the Park and local community. The centre, which is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and a number of charitable trusts, has physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, podiatry, and a hydrotherapy pool.

The warm water and additional buoyancy of the pool has a very beneficial effect on people suffering from rheumatic, arthritic or respiratory conditions.

There is a large area for entertainment, including old time dances and film nights for which a large video screen has been given by a charitable trust. Over 500 people from the Park, from Lara and the Geelong area attended the opening concert, held on July 4.

The centre is named after the Geelong Division's Executive Officer, Eric Hart, who retires in September. Eric Hart was one of the original

The Brotherhood of St Laurence

action

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members of the council which founded the Park 28 years ago, and has been a member of staff for ten years.

"We have planned the centre to help bring the Park and the local community together," says Eric Hart, "and it is important that we have services which allow people to live in their own homes. People who live

in the Geelong area will be able to stay at home and come to our centre for the services they need."

"We should, where possible, keep people out of nursing homes. Our population is ageing and it is in everybody's interests that our older people have a range of choices to help them live as independently as possible."



At the opening are (from left) Eric Hart, Geelong Consultative Committee chairman John Backhouse, and Bishop Peter Hollingworth.

(Photo courtesy Geelong Advertiser)