


Sunbury Leader



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Paranormal investigator Darren Miller wants to explore Victoria University.

Picture: DENNIS MANKTELOW N305R606

Spirited tourist bid

Tourism | Kelly Sammut

Fertile field to haunt imagination

AT a time when paranormal fiction tops box office and bestseller lists, a paranormal investigator says Sunbury's history is ripe for exploration.

Darren Miller is the founder of Ghost Research International, a company that uses infrared surveillance, motion detectors, night-vision equipment and electromagnetic field detectors to investigate paranormal activity.

He said Sunbury had a wealth of first-hand accounts and stories

worth investigating and promoting, particularly the Victoria University site.

"The Sunbury area is rich in history and legends, which could be researched, documented and possibly utilised to promote tourism," he said. "In the university library, some of the staff have information on what they believe to be a resident ghost."

Mr Miller said he had approached

the university about doing a paranormal investigation but had been caught in red tape.

"After we did the Border Inn (in Bacchus Marsh), they reported to us they had international visitors coming through," he said.

"Interest in the paranormal has increased on a worldwide scale. It's now quite a big tourist industry."

Hume Council's recent tourism strategy lamented a lack of tourist


experiences in the area to attract visitors. Lantern Ghost Tours, a member of the Victorian Ghost Tours Association, took about 10,000 people on tours of Williamstown and Melbourne in the past 12 months. Business developer Andrew Wischart said the university, Sunbury's former asylum, had real tourism potential.

"On TV shows, people are seeing paranormal and ghost interaction

and it whets their appetite. People want to be present when something like that happens," he said.

Victoria University stopped holding classes in 2009. It is being used as a temporary campus for Hume Anglican Grammar School.

Deputy vice-chancellor capital and management services Jon Hickman said the university could not grant access to the site while it was being used by the school.

 Should ghost researchers explore Sunbury? Tell us at sunburyleader.com.au