

# Star Werribee

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New home ... Walter Villagonzalo at the Migrant Hub's new home. 67635

Picture: SARAH MATRAY

## Home for volunteers

BY XAVIER SMERDON

VOLUNTEERS from Wyndham's only migrant resource centre are rejoicing after finding a new home, just one day before their old one was demolished.

Star reported last month that the Migrant Hub, which had operated out of a shipping container in Hoppers Lane since 2009, would be demolished, making the centre's volunteers homeless if they could not find a new base for their operations.

Luckily, disability services provider Manbourin struck a deal with the hub, allowing them to operate out of their cafe and sensory gardens in Werribee South.

Their new facilities are surrounded by beautiful gardens and are a popular wedding setting.

Migrant Hub founder Walter Villagonzalo said he was overjoyed to be able to continue serving the community.

"It's beyond our expectations," Mr Villagonzalo said.

"This place is Wyndham's best-kept secret and we want to make it more revealed to the community."

Mambourin chief executive Rohan Braddy said Mr Villagonzalo and his crew would take over responsibility of the gardens and run the cafe as part of their agreement.

"We firmly believe that this is

an opportunity to build on the hard work that has been put into these gardens and cafe over so many years, to create something truly wonderful for and with the people that we support and the wider community," Mr Braddy said.

Mr Villagonzalo said he was grateful to his previous landlords.

"I want to thank Systems Golf Complex and the Snow family for their generosity and for letting us have that place for the past year," he said.

"We liked that home. We made a lot of new friends there."

The Migrant Hub will be holding a grand opening on Tuesday 29 March. For more information call 9731 7877.