

\$8.8m cancer centre proposed

by Kietley Isrin

AN \$8.8 million plan for the long-awaited Hawkesbury based oncology and infusion centre has been released.

The Hawkesbury Living and Richmond Club development will comprise eight chemotherapy and infusion beds, counselling services, an underground carpark and a level dedicated to dementia care.

Group CEO of Hawkesbury Living and Richmond Club Kimberley Talbot revealed the next step towards the construction of the centre – the concept plan for the site.

The plan provides a detailed blueprint for the planning process for building Hawkesbury's most advanced cancer treatment facility.

Ms Talbot told the *Gazette* the plan was consistent with the recently developed Magnolia Place wing of the nursing home, and will provide additional services for multiple sclerosis, arthritis, osteoporosis and other chronic diseases. But most importantly, the unit will be able to administer chemotherapy in the district.

"Our plan is highly innovative, and provides a local solution to a national problem while improving the overall accessibility of healthcare in the region," Ms Talbot said.

"The recent development of Magnolia Place has been a great success and the third stage of the master plan for the site was under development when we received the \$1 million donation."

What was originally going to be a two-storey wing extension with 22 beds, is now going to be developed into a three-storey extension, subject to council approval.

"The Board of Trustees, who have been meeting monthly to plan and design our treatment centre decided that was sensible for us to do a three-level building and bring the oncology, infusion and counselling services to the bottom level," Ms Talbot said.

"The additional floor is owing to the \$1 million



An artist's impression of the proposed oncology development.

donation from Len and Margaret Peel to the Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust which has put us in the position to advance our plans for building the centre considerably."

According to Mrs Talbot, each infusion bed will cost approximately \$125,000 to completely set up with oxygen, special waste outlets and emergency call services.

"It's about a \$1.5 million fit out and an additional \$1.3 million build for the ground floor," Ms Talbot said.

"At this stage, we don't have enough money to achieve this, that's why Hawkesbury Living in conjunction with Richmond Club are also applying for a \$1.8 million dollar for dollar grant from the Regional Development Fund of Australia.

"Is this project expensive to deliver? Yes, but no one else is delivering it."

Ms Talbot also disclosed the development would also feature a \$700,000 underground 18-spot carpark and a major renovation to the existing Magnolia Place wing to the tune of a quarter of a million dollars to bring in specialised dementia care.

"We are currently about to undergo renovations in the Cameron Wing in readiness for those additional two floors, with the top level dedicated to dementia and memory care beds."

"The 'Cameron Wing' facility will feature an activities and therapy room, study, a bus stop, storage area, shopfront, multipurpose dining rooms and outdoor streetscapes so that those

receiving memory care can move around the room comfortably and confidently," Ms Talbot said. The wing will also be wired with high sensory equipment.

Ms Talbot said a development application will be submitted to council in about six weeks and tenders for the oncology service will be put out at a later date.

So what does the proposed new floor mean for the Hawkesbury? "Cancer is not one disease, it is many," Ms Talbot said. "To travel to hospital from some areas of the Hawkesbury for treatment means that life basically stops.

"We developed the concept of the Cancer Trust to predominantly bring oncology and infusion services to the Hawkesbury. This project means that people within the Hawkesbury can get what is a daily requirement for a lot of people – chemotherapy treatments, and have access to a facility which is able to administer other treatments that are given by infusion.

"There is also the possibility of a mammogram service, and a place where cancer sufferers can purchase wigs and have counselling locally."

Both a clinical psychologist and medical oncologist will be consulting in Richmond to provide co-ordinated care for patients.

"The centre will be designed with the comfort and ease of patients in mind, and with guidance and input from clinical staff to ensure that it is practical and functional for their use as well," she said.

Ms Talbot emphasised the new facility would complement rather than duplicate services provided by local health services.

"We will be co-operating, not competing, with the area health service," she said.

Acting general manager of Hawkesbury District Health Service Peter Blanchard said a locally based oncology service will be a very welcomed addition to the Hawkesbury.

If funding can be secured, the precinct could be operational by the end of 2012.

Driver in fatal crash still not identified

by Cerise Burgess

A MAN who was killed in a head-on car crash last week in Leets Vale is still yet to be formally identified.

The man, believed to be aged in his late 50s, was driving his blue Holden Commodore station-wagon south along Bicentenary Road at Leets Vale, near Wisemans Ferry, about 3.30pm last Thursday, when it allegedly failed to negoti-

ate a bend and veered to the wrong side of the road, colliding head-on with a table-top truck travelling in the opposite direction.

The driver was the sole occupant of the car and died at the scene.

The Mitsubishi Canter table-top truck driver, a 49-year-old male from Mooney Mooney, suffered minor injuries and was taken to Hawkesbury Hospital where he underwent a mandatory blood and urine test.

Police, including scientific officers, ambulance, fire brigade and SES all attended the scene.

The road was closed until 11.30pm while an investigation was done.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene for forensic examination and inquiries into the cause of the crash are continuing.

Police said "at this early stage of the investi-

gation it appears speed may have been a factor in the accident". Steps are being taken to formally identify the deceased man and as of yesterday police said they could not offer anything further at this stage.

Anyone with details about the crash is urged to contact Hawkesbury Police on 4587 4099 or via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

Tired of dead limbs hanging around?



REPAIR & SERVICE

Ride-ons
Brushcutters
Chainsaws
Power Tools

FOR HIRE

- Airless Sprayer
 - Bobcats
 - Cherry Pickers
 - Chipper Mulchers 3", 6", 12"
 - Demo Saw
 - Dingo or Kanga with attachments
 - Excavator
 - Floor Sander
 - Jack Hammer
 - Ride-Ons, zero turn, 48" + 61"
 - Rotary Hoe
 - Scaffold
 - Tractors
 - Trailers
- Plus much more



Hire Force trading as Stihl Shop North Richmond
1/84 Bells Line of Road, North Richmond - 4571 3800

SPECIALIST DEALER NETWORK STIHL

Admission Prices
Daily except Tuesday
Adults, Children, Students & Pensioners.
All Tickets \$12



149 Windsor St RICHMOND
FOR SESSION DETAILS PHONE 4578 1800
www.richmondregent.com.au

NSW Seniors Card Holders \$10 everyday plus all Tickets Tuesday \$10 (except public holidays)

BM1717828

Sessions commencing Thursday June 16th



Cinema 1 Downstairs

Thur June 16th to Wed June 22nd
Thurs to Sun 10.00am, 2.15pm & 7.10pm (Cin 2)
Monday CLOSED
Tues & Wed 10.00am, 2.15pm & 7.10pm (Cin 2)



Cinema 2 Upstairs

Thur June 16th to Wed June 22nd
Thurs to Sat 9.45am, 4.50pm & 9.05pm
Sunday 9.45am & 4.50pm
Monday CLOSED
Tues & Wed 9.45am, 4.50pm & 9.05pm



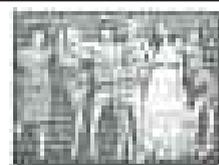
Cinema 2 upstairs

Thur June 16th to Wed June 22nd
Thurs to Sun 12.15pm
Monday CLOSED
Tues & Wed 12.15pm



Cinema 2 Upstairs

Thur June 16th to Wed June 22nd
Thurs to Sat 2.30pm & 8.50pm (Cin 1)
Sunday 2.30pm
Monday CLOSED
Tues & Wed 2.30pm & 8.50pm (Cin 1)



BRIDES MAIDS

Cinema 1 Downstairs

Thur June 16th to Wed June 22nd
Thurs to Sun 12noon, 4.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday CLOSED
Tues & Wed 12noon, 4.15pm & 6.30pm

www.richmondregent.com.au