

\$2.1m for aged facility

by Kietley Isrin

A 22-YEAR-OLD Hawkesbury man with testicular cancer had to wait eight weeks for treatment, and this is just one of the stories that Richmond Club Group CEO Kimberley Talbot hears every day.

Preventing this is the driving force behind the Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust, which has secured another 33 bed licences for its aged care and oncology extension, taking the total to 133.

It comes on top of another recent private donation of \$250,000 from an anonymous benefactor.

The recent allocation of \$2.1 million from the federal Department of Health and Ageing Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR) means that the aged care extension will now be classified as a hospital, providing overnight stay beds and separate public patient services.

At a recent site visit, Ms Talbot met with Hawkesbury Mayor Kim Ford, Hawkesbury MP Ray Williams, federal Macquarie MP Louise Markus and state Londonderry MP Bart Bassett to discuss the plans and other issues.

"With an additional 33 bed licences, our nursing home will be able to assist Hawkesbury Hospital by freeing up palliative and long stay patient beds in hospital, thus reducing 'access block' in the Emergency Department so that elderly patients can be admitted to the wards," Ms Talbot said. "By working together with the hospital, we are freeing up acute care beds locally. We will now be able to provide five overnight stay beds for the oncology service and we are currently working to hopefully be able to service public patients out of the site [as well]."

Ms Talbot said along with providing respite beds, palliative care beds, blood collection services and a floor dedicated to specialist services including gerontologists, there is also the possibility of offering high-care services.

"If you look at the number of residents we are receiving now, there are certainly more high care and acutely sick people than there are low care so this is something we need to consider and accommodate," she said. "We're trying to work closer with the community to deliver community infrastructure, because that's what we can do and to show that projects like this can actually happen."

The project design and next DA submission for council will be submitted in coming weeks and will recognise the Hawkesbury Living site as an official hospital.

"The whole site has many community entities on it and needs to be worked through with council thoroughly - parking is an issue at the moment," Ms Talbot said. "The fact that Norman Court is utilised as a rental property for people on the poverty line gives clear indication that there is a need for small pockets of social hous-



Macquarie MP Louise Markus, Hawkesbury Living CEO Kimberley Talbot, Hawkesbury MP Ray Williams, Londonderry MP Bart Bassett and Hawkesbury Mayor Kim Ford.

ing in this area and we are now an approved social housing provider under the Hawkesbury Living banner to assist in this problem."

Ms Talbot is encouraging the state and federal governments to help with land purchase.

"We would then be able to provide villas or an apartment block to people in the area that are homeless or on the poverty line," she said.

"This development means we will be turning 10 residents who are low paying rental residents onto the streets if we cannot work on some social housing. These are locals who have just found themselves in situations and need assistance so I implore the local members to help."

Mr Bassett said organisations that are investing in building and improving facilities for seniors need to be congratulated.

"Hawkesbury Living's doing a fantastic job in providing quality facilities that will provide housing choices and services to enable seniors and over 55s to downsize and stay in our community," he said. "The state government's keen to see the non-government sector involved in providing social housing as part of the normal mix of housing in any community. Any worthwhile project will be seriously considered on its merits."

Wigs and other essentials for people with can-

cer will also be available at the centre, expected to be supported by local charity Pink Finns.

"It's amazing to see the people who wish to assist the Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust with this project," Ms Talbot said. "Many politicians have also assisted in this process including Member for Hawkesbury Ray Williams who has worked closely with the Premier Barry O'Farrell and Health Minister Jillian Skinner."

Hawkesbury Mayor Kim Ford said the new oncology centre would provide much-needed relief to patients and their families.

"Currently Hawkesbury patients have to travel several kilometres for treatment, often daily or weekly and it is sad that we can't provide this service for them in our area where they can be near the support network of loved ones and friends," he said. "It is often hard for family to travel long distances to visit and provide support to those who are ill."

Louise Markus said the funding was good, but did not go far enough as community organisations were making up the funding shortfall.

"I'd like to formally congratulate Kimberley Talbot for securing important federal funding to continue to provide further services to the Hawkesbury's ageing population," she said.

Windsor KFC up for grabs

THE KFC on Macquarie Street in Windsor has closed its doors after close to 30 years of trading. KFC made the decision to close the business due to its age and the fact that a modern store had recently been built just a few kilometres away in McGraths Hill. A spokesperson for KFC said the building was ageing and a decision needed to be made on its future. "The Windsor store was opened in 1983," the spokesperson said. "In this case, after almost three decades operation, the Windsor outlet building was becoming tired so a decision needed to be made about its future." Another factor in the decision was the opening just three years ago of a new, much larger, KFC outlet a short distance away on Windsor Road at McGraths Hill. As for the land itself, KFC does not own the site but was leasing it from Hawkesbury City Council. It is not yet known what the potentially prime development site will now be used for.

Uni offers out today

STUDENTS who sat their HSC in 2011 will find out today if they have made it into university when the main round offers are released from 9pm. The Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) has processed applications for admission to most undergraduate courses and potential uni students will be able to check their results tonight by visiting www.uac.edu.au. Make sure you have your UAC application number and UAC PIN ready before you log on. A letter will also arrive in the mail tomorrow (Thursday, January 19) to all students regardless of whether or not you receive an offer in this round. If you didn't receive an offer, UAC will send you a letter to explain why your application was unsuccessful. Wait until you have received your letter before seeking advice. Student preferences will automatically be considered in the same order in the Late Round.

Aged care worker night

DO YOU enjoy caring for people? Have you ever thought of volunteering or working in the aged care industry? Well if so, you can find out more at the Hawkesbury Living Information Night to be held at Richmond Club on Tuesday, January 24. For more information call 4578 2966.

Aboriginal family day

HAWKESBURY'S Aboriginal community is holding a family fun day from 10am to 2pm this Friday, January 20 at the corner of Macquarie and Brabyn streets, Windsor. This free event has something for the whole family. Activities include a craft table, barbecue, jumping castle, face painting, service stalls, show bags and games. There will also be a number of giveaways and prizes up for grabs. For details, call Renee on 4588 5144.

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<p>JOURNEY 2 THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND</p> <p>Josh Hutcherson & Dwayne Johnson Sean Anderson partners with his mum's boyfriend on a mission to find his grandfather, who is thought to be missing on a mythical island...</p> <p>Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed: 9:30am 1:30pm 7:10pm</p> <p>CINEMA 2 - UPSTAIRS Length 1hr 34m</p>	<p>the Descendants</p> <p>George Clooney & Amara Miller A land baron tries to re-connect with his two daughters after his wife suffers a boating accident...</p> <p>Thu Fri Sat: 3:15pm 8:55pm Sun: 3:15pm Mon Tue Wed: 3:15pm 8:55pm</p> <p>CINEMA 2 - UPSTAIRS Length 1hr 55m</p>
<p>MUPPETS</p> <p>Jason Segel & Amy Adams With the help of three fans, The Muppets must reunite to save their old theater from a greedy oil tycoon...</p> <p>Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed: 10:55am 2:35pm</p> <p>CINEMA 1 - DOWNSTAIRS Length 1hr 50m</p>	<p>SHERLOCK HOLMES A GAME OF SHADOWS</p> <p>Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law & Jared Harris Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr. Watson join forces to outwit and bring down their fiercest adversary: Professor Moriarty...</p> <p>Thu Fri Sat: 4:35pm 9:10pm Sun: 4:35pm Mon Tue Wed: 4:35pm 9:10pm</p> <p>CINEMA 1 - DOWNSTAIRS Length 2hr 9m</p>
<p>ALVIN THE CHIPMUNKS CHIPWRECKED</p> <p>Justin Long & Matthew Gray Gubler Playing around while aboard a cruise ship, the Chipmunks and Chipettes accidentally go overboard and end up marooned in a tropical paradise...</p> <p>Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed: 9:15am 12:55pm (Cinema 1) 5:20pm (Cinema 2)</p> <p>CINEMAS 1 & 2 Length 1hr 27m</p>	<p>We Bought A ZOO</p> <p>Matt Damon & Scarlett Johansson A father moves his young family to the countryside to renovate and re-open a struggling zoo...</p> <p>Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed: 11:15am (Cinema 2) 6:55pm (Cinema 1)</p> <p>CINEMAS 1 & 2 Length 2hr 4m</p>

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