

**WHAT WE SAY...**  
**What is holding up oncology?**

HAWKESBURY is almost on the cusp of having oncology services for cancer patients.

What's the hold up? On the surface it looks like red-tape with a splash of politics thrown in.

None of the agencies involved contacted by the *Gazette* (Hawkesbury Living Cancer Trust, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Service, Hawkesbury District Health Service and a local MP) had the "answer" apart from it's being worked on at the moment.

According to Hawkesbury Living, which has received more than \$2 million in community donations for an oncology service, all their systems are in place, ready to go and services could have been in play by the end of the year, which is what NBMLHS is now expecting - chemotherapy-only services up and running within Hawkesbury Hospital by year's end.

The Trust says it wants to work with Hawkesbury Hospital, which is currently in funding and contract negotiations with the government, for the best results for the Hawkesbury community.

Meanwhile, months are passing taking some of the shine off the "grand plans" for treatment for cancer patients in this community.

This community is losing out. The question needs to be asked. Are those struggling with the red tape losing sight of the ultimate goal? To provide world-class oncology services to cancer patients in the Hawkesbury community sooner rather than later?

It appears so.  
 — **Maryann Jenkins**  
 Editor



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**THE Hawkesbury Gazette will not publish letters where the name is withheld. When submitting your letter, please provide your first name or initial, your surname, a contact number and your address, of which only the township will be printed with your name. Preference will be given to letters that do not exceed 250 words. Letters may be edited.**

**your letters**

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**Lessons for life**

RE: Gonski review. Frankly I am tired of the rhetoric and think it's time for real action in our schools by considering the real issues that are hurting our children.

Daniel Hurst reflects on one of the outcomes of this review: "The plans would have to explain how schools would improve learning and teaching practices, and better target resources and would be

posted on the My School website". This sounds great, better transparency and accountability doesn't it?

Yet there are other real issues in our schools that require explanation and swift decisive action.

Issues that won't be on the My School Website, and won't be solved by more money or making further unreasonable demands of our teachers.

When children are being bullied

daily to the point of suicide, when a curricula in the science classroom teaches a fallible theory on evolution as if it is a foregone conclusive fact, when sex is not sacred but something done casually, when our teens are amongst the world's most at risk binge drinkers, maybe its time to think about what God says, instead of Gonski.

The real solution here is to put prayer back into the morning routine, get rid of the humanist

ethics nonsense "if it's right for you, it's right" and teach that what God says is right.

I don't think the answer to these far reaching, life altering real issues in our education system can be solved by Labor or Liberal.

The issues are far deeper — it's the Christian Democratic Party that are offering authentic solutions.

— **Sonja Howard**  
 COLO HEIGHTS

**Tunnel it**

WHY don't we forget about this ridiculous bridge, restore Thompson Square and build a tunnel? Start it at McGraths Hill and by-pass Windsor's Thompson Square altogether.

— **Denise Martin**  
 KURRAJONG

**Not worth the cost**

FIRST of all I would like to question what was said about Mt Irvine Road, by Robyn Scrivener (*Gazette* June 12 p1).

Mt Irvine Rd at Bilpin is blocked by two concrete bollards, two huge blocks of sandstone and a huge pile of dirt, there is no way that a car could go around bikes have found another way in.

If you did manage to get around it you would be faced with massive erosion of the road, landslides and trees down.

Before the road was closed it was like a main road especially on weekends when it would not be uncommon for 4wd drivers sometimes in convoys of four to five, speeding down our road and using the trail as their own 4wd course.

Then you would have motor bike riders, most of which are not registered using it as well, one time I counted 35 bike riders.

On weekends I could not walk on the road with my children for fear of bikes and 4wds.

To fix up the Bilpin section of Mt Irvine Rd would cost more than \$1 million dollars when you include materials, machinery and labour.

There is also a section of the road where there is an old fence protecting people falling over, this to would have to be replaced at considerable cost.

In the event of a fire you would not use this section as you are surrounded by bush with nowhere to go.

It's actually quicker using Bells Line of Road to get into and out of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

There are many more projects in the Hawkesbury area which would benefit by the Council spending money on these instead of a small section of Mt Irvine Road, which is only used by a few residents of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

— **Colin Williams**  
 BILPIN

**Playing the female card**

THERE is nothing worse than a woman in a powerful position playing the female card.

So I was seriously disappointed when Julia Gillard used it again recently.

Playing the woman card is a slap in the face of true feminists. True feminists are women who know they are a valuable human being who believe they can achieve anything regardless of their gender.

Even Eva Cox, a staunch feminist, has spoken out about the unfortunate nature of the PM trying to reignite the gender debate. I couldn't agree more.

The victim card is another favourite of the PM, which is laughable because she is so capable of hurling great insults across the chamber and good on her, it's part of the job. But to act so indignant and wounded when she is the recip-



ient of similar jibes is hypocritical to say the least.

Having said this, personal attacks such as the ones made by shock jock Howard Sadler are completely irrelevant and he seriously crossed the line and deserved to be sacked.

There is a lot of discussion about gender and equality. Women are and have been out in the workplace taking on non-traditional roles earning great money, whilst having families for decades. For me, the mere fact the Labor party believes in quotas which dictate the number of men or women MPs is making an issue of gender.

Shouldn't it be based on merit? The saddest thing about the gender debate being used is that other women in politics seem to see it as acceptable behaviour.

You don't have to look too far in local government to witness the female/victim/waterworks cards being played.

Women who do this are actively undermining their strength as a person and are not good role models for future generations.

The gender debate has no place in politics and I believe there is a decline in the respect for the office of Prime Minister due to a string of broken promises and bad policy not because the Prime Minister is a woman.

— **Tiffany Tree**  
 Deputy mayor

**Dumping disgust**

RE: "Incorrect costs" (*Gazette* letters June 12): There may well be some incorrect costs in tipping fees but that is absolutely no excuse for dumping last Wednesday night in the household bins of Bowen Mountain residents. Six bins were that heavy from tiles from a reno the garbage man couldn't lift.

I was one of those unlucky ones. Good one guys I hope you are proud.

— **Y.Haxby**  
 BOWEN MOUNTAIN

**Need for real solutions**

RE: Bart Bassett's letter (*Gazette* June 19): It seems he has this argument wrong end up.

The "road corridor" that he mentions was not "marked out years ago" and was not for an inadequate bridge that will probably never be built and even if it is, will be inadequate even before commencement of construction.

He is correct when he asserts the

general public want "elected members to make decisions for the greater good of the whole community"; it is a pity that in my opinion and I would say all the so called NIMBY groups he mentions so disparagingly, plus the thousands that have signed petitions, that he just isn't doing it.

In my opinion, formed from observation, it is only the community that isn't benefiting from Bart's idea of "representation".

I suggest Bart contact Ted Books for information on a practical solution to this problem rather than the destruction of "Navua" and "Yarramundi" reserves and one which will tie in with the upgrade of Bells Line of Road as well, I think this is the "road corridor" he inaccurately mentioned in his tirade.

Old hands like Ted Books have more knowledge of the area than "in-comers" like Bart, he should take advantage of it.

You never know, it might be a real solution that will cater for growth not developer profit.

— **Colleen Turnbull**  
 GROSE VALE

**Write to protect**

RE: "Trust calls for bridge support" (*Gazette* June 19 p3). Readers should write to Tony Burke in his capacity as Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, or Minister for the Arts, to Tony.Burke.MP@environment.gov.au.

Dear Mr Burke, In the Windsor and Hawkesbury areas there is a great deal of community concern about the new bridge proposed for Windsor.

The major concern is the intrusion into the historical Thompson Square.

As you would be aware the National Trust of Australia NSW is advocating an emergency listing of Thompson Square onto the Heritage List. Could you please cooperate with the concerned residents in these pre-election times, to ensure that this happens, and quickly.

— **Edmund Moran JP**  
 BILPIN

**Our cool PM**

OUR Prime Minister promised us in January this year that we would not have a year of campaigning but a year of "cool and reasoned deliberation".

I ask readers how this is going for

you all? My advice to Labor candidates in the Hawkesbury area is to not waste your time running for election under your current leadership "join the dots".

— **Mark Davies**  
 WILBERFORCE

**Fiction Part 2**

I FIND it very disturbing when our MPs make statements like Bart Bassett has just done in last week's *Gazette* (June 19).

Mr Bassett, you were put in this position to look after the people of the Hawkesbury. I believe this would include listening to, acting on behalf of, and helping to resolve their issues — I don't believe that knocking the Greens, Labor or the so called NIMBY people of the Hawkesbury qualifies as doing your job.

Instead of doing something helpful for your community, your two-part propaganda is simply an insult. Thanks to becoming more familiar with our three local MPs, our federal representative and our Liberal-bloc Council members' antics, I for one will never be voting Liberal again. I advise everyone who actually cares for the Hawkesbury and it's history to do the same.

— **Robert Lewry**  
 WINDSOR

**Obscenely corrupt?**

RE: "Heat turned up on bridge plan" (*Gazette* June 5) with its hint of a plan for sand and gravel extraction, as the secret reason those designs to remove the perfectly serviceable bridge, so to build one that is more favourable to river traffic.

Is this is to say all our representative in Council, state, and federal governments are obscenely corrupt?

— **Frank Scharfe**  
 RIVERWOOD

**LOOKING BACK**

**25 years:** The \$2 coin is released by the Royal Australian Mint, replacing the \$2 note.

**50 years:** Traffic on the Richmond railway line is considered heavy enough to warrant the duplication of the line to Mulgrave or the provision of automatic signalling.

**100 years:** The Colonial Sugar Refining Co advertises they are cash buyers of good sound bones at high prices.