

Sydney Observer

JUNE 2013 - FREE

*Blue
Mountains
special*

Tara Moss

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STUDENT & MUM

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FROM THE TEAM

This month the *Sydney Observer* team broadened their horizons. We have just launched a new website, so you can now read the magazine online. We also looked beyond the North Shore to the Blue Mountains, for our destination special (p. 23).

After writing about the local heritage, the best places to visit and the beautiful accommodation options, everyone is now hanging out for the next long weekend so we can pay the Mountains a much needed visit. We're especially keen to check out some of the Blue Mountains vintage stores author, Tara Moss told us about in our chat with her (p. 32).

We haven't let our research into the Blue Mountains deter us from the most pressing local issues. The debate over council amalgamation continues as mayors along the north shore weigh in on the matter (p. 14).

Enjoy the June issue and make sure you check out the new website!



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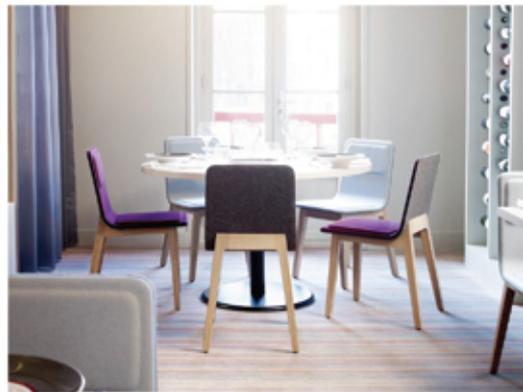
Sydney Observer is distributed to all Ku-ring-gai plus selected adjacent areas of Hornsby, Lane Cove and Willoughby. Additional copies are available from local libraries, selected retail outlets and council offices. We personally deliver to businesses in most suburban shopping areas in order to remain community-focused and personal.

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MASTERCHEF INSPIRATION

I thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Good one, Goodwin' (May 2013, p. 16). Julie Goodwin is an inspiration to us all because "despite her success she remains as down to earth as ever". The success of winning MasterChef has not changed her, she is still a home cook like many of us. Keep up the good work, Julie!

Jocelyn Kwan, Gordon

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAVEL ADVICE

Thank you for the awesome article on the dangers faced by young people travelling overseas (May 2013, p.14). My niece is planning to backpack through Asia next year and the information in the article was so useful. Instead of just saying "be careful" we could give her an example illustrating the dangers faced by young travellers, and some ways to minimise the risks.

Kate Colliits, North Epping

Good one, Goodwin

EBAY A THING OF THE PAST

I spend hours searching on Ebay for vintage items, but thank you for advertising all of these fantastic shops (May 2013, p. 24), I will be sure to visit them.

Linda Hutton, Lindfield

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF THE OBSERVER

Featuring the very chirpy smile of Julie on the cover, I liked the May issue for its great recipe of a cupful of wonderfully informative stories, the tablespoon of enticing local business reminders nicely infused with a big splash of colour and seasoned with a cheeky pinch of giveaways.

Lauren Mund, Berowra Heights



If you would like to enter any of the giveaway draws, tell us in 25 words or more, what you liked in this month's magazine. The best entries will be published* and go in the running for our monthly giveaway in the next issue of the magazine. **PO Box 420, Killara NSW 2071 or email editor@kamdha.com with your name, address, and contact number by the 25th of the month.**

*By sending a letter or e-mail to enter the giveaway the sender authorises any use of it as content by *Sydney Observer*.



Jonathan O'Dea

Member for Davidson

Further Planning Discussion

Additional White Paper Discussion Forum
Roseville Golf Club, 6.00 pm, 12 June 2013

Places are limited; register to attend at:
<http://events.planning.nsw.gov.au/Public/SelectEvent.aspx>

To view and comment on the Planning White Paper:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem

I encourage anyone with an interest in local and NSW
Planning issues to register and attend or make a
comment online.

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THE *Cotswolds* VILLAGE

28 CURAGUL ROAD, NORTH TURRAMURRA

NESTLED on more than 3 hectares at North Turramurra on Sydney's leafy Upper North Shore, **The Cotswolds** has, since 1983, been renowned for the quality of its services and lifestyle.

The complex is constructed of double brick and is beautifully designed with clusters comprising 89 one and two bedroom self-care units set in award-winning gardens. Each unit has its own front entrance, ensuring privacy, and the larger 2 bedroom units have a separate dining room and ensuite bathroom. These units have either a lock-up garage, carport or parking space allocated to them.

There are also 39 serviced apartments, either studio style or one bedroom, situated in the Village Centre.

The levy for the serviced apartments pays for three meals per day, the servicing of the rooms and linen change.

One advantage in buying in **The Cotswolds** is that there are **no Deferred Management fees**.

In the Village Centre, residents are able to enjoy an indoor heated swimming pool and spa and a range of recreational facilities including a library, card room, computer room, a billiard room and indoor carpet bowls. There is also a comfortable lounge area, complete with piano, and a lovely dining room. A public golf course is located opposite the village.

Separate rooms have been provided for visiting medical practitioners, health professionals and for a hairdresser who attends 4 days each week.

All units are fitted with a 24 hour emergency call system to the Registered Nurse, who is on site 24/7.

The village bus provides transport to local shopping centres, supplementing the regular bus service which runs to Turramurra Station and also has a week day direct route to the City.

Social activities are also organised on a regular basis for those who wish to participate.

Currently available:

- Studio serviced apartments from \$98,000
- One bedroom serviced apartments from \$280,000
- One bedroom self-care unit from \$295,000
- Two bedroom self-care units from \$349,000

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COMMUNITY GRANTS

by Kate Lilly

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND local businesses have the chance to share in approximately \$150,000 under the Ku-ring-gai Community Grants Program.

Under the scheme, groups can apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to purchase equipment or to fund arts and cultural activities.

This year local businesses can also apply with economic and social development identified as a priority funding area.

Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Elaine Malicki said: "Community groups do such good work in our community, often on a shoe string budget. These grants allow them to purchase much-needed equipment they otherwise couldn't afford or the opportunity to get their dream project up and running."

Successful applicants in the past have included graffiti removal projects, arts programs and an Aboriginal cultural awareness project for children.

Applications will be open until Friday, June 14 at 5pm. There will be a grants writing workshop held at Council Chambers on Tuesday May 21, between 3.30pm and 7.30pm to assist those who want to apply.

HAZEL HAWKE REMEMBERED

HAZEL HAWKE, FORMER wife of Prime Minister Bob Hawke, has died at 81 after a decade long fight with Alzheimer's disease.

Friends, family, and a wide array of public figures, including Prime Minister Julia Gillard have paid tribute to a 'wonderful Australian'.

A widely admired social and political figure, Hawke inspired the lives of many Australians. She was well known for her advocacy work in women's rights, abortion, drug education, and reconciliation. More recently she passionately campaigned for dementia awareness after her diagnosis with Alzheimer's in 2008.

A private family funeral was held, and a public memorial will be held in the coming weeks.



The new headquarters for the local Ku-ring-gai State Emergency Service and the new Rural Fire Service officially opened at a launch event at North Wahroonga's Golden Jubilee Field on Saturday May 25.

LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR WILLOUGHBY COUNCIL

WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL has been awarded the Philip Chun Award for Government Leadership for developing the cultural and entertainment destination, The Concourse in Chatswood.

The Concourse opened in September 2011, and has since been used as a popular community facility with a performing arts theatre, outdoor screen, library and dining areas.

Mayor of Willoughby, Pat Reilly said the award is a fantastic achievement for the City of Willoughby, and encouraged other councils to look towards developing similar facilities.

"The Concourse now provides a blueprint for all levels of government to provide large community facilities of any nature that are vitally needed for growing communities across the state."

The award was presented at the 2013 Property Council of Australia/Rider Levett Bucknall Innovation and Excellence Awards on May 18.

COUNCIL WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK ON TWENTY YEAR PLAN

by Jessie Goldie

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL HAS published an indepth draft plan outlining their vision for the future, and how they plan to achieve it. The *Draft Community Strategic Plan* outlines the aspirations, vision and long term goals for Ku-ring-gai's people, places and spaces, environment and economy.

In a preface to the plan Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Elaine Malicki, describes several of the Council's top priorities: "Our top priorities are planning for our increasing older and younger aged residents... increasing visitors to the area [and] promoting Ku-ring-gai as a place to set up business."

The plans have been made available to the public online and the Council is encouraging the community to provide their feedback.

The plans can be viewed in their entirety and submissions made at kmc.nsw.gov.au.

So get online and let the Council know what you think!



FRENCHS FOREST HOSPITAL TO OPEN IN 2018

A NEW HOSPITAL SET TO EASE PRESSURE ON ROYAL NORTH SHORE.

by Keiran Gair

THE NSW MINISTER for Health, Jillian Skinner, has announced that a privately funded, 423 bed hospital will open in Frenchs Forest in 2018. The hospital will reduce the pressure on the Royal North Shore Hospital, and allow for the closure of Manly Hospital and a downgrade of Mona Vale Hospital.

Mrs Skinner said the proposed hospital will be a "world class, innovative model". However Shadow Health Minister, Dr Andrew McDonald has expressed concerns, labelling the plan as an "extraordinary undertaking that is bound to run into problems".

The new Frenchs Forest hospital will have emergency capabilities equal to

that of the Royal North Shore, becoming the second hospital in the Northern Sydney region to be granted the status of a 'level five' emergency department.

It will be funded and run by a private operator for the first 20 years of its existence, after that time it will revert back to public ownership. Local member and MP for Davidson, Jonathon O'Dea, said that the announcement of the process to find a private operator was "a great milestone for the people of the northern beaches and north shore, who have long wanted a new, state-of-the-art hospital to cater for their health needs, now and into the future".

Shadow Health Minister, Dr Andrew McDonald, believes the Frenchs Forest hospital is a necessary step in reduc-

ing the burden placed on the Royal North Shore hospital. However, he said that the private sector cannot provide adequate health care for everyone.

"The problems will appear further down the track. This system hasn't worked anywhere else in Australia. As service demands increase dramatically we will find that the private sector simply can't cope."

Frenchs Forest hospital will provide 173 beds for privately insured patients, while the number of beds allocated to public patients will cover the downsize at Mona Vale and the closure of Manly hospital. It will be built on a 6.5 hectare site bounded by Frenchs Forest Road West, Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway and the Forest High School.

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A HEATED COUNCIL MEETING IN KU-RING-GAI

by Rose Moloney

PARENTS AND COUNCILLORS were unimpressed by the Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Elaine Malicki's, behaviour at a recent council meeting.

On May 28 almost 200 people attended a meeting at the Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers to protest against Council's plans to reclassify the land on which Gordon Community Preschool is located.

Brian Dickinson, whose five-year-old daughter attends the preschool, spoke at the meeting on behalf of parents. However he said he felt intimidated and disappointed by Cr Malicki's behaviour towards him and other attendees. "It was an attack from her [Cr Malicki] from the start. Throughout the whole meeting there was a constant tone of sarcasm, patronising and condescension, not just on the Gordon stuff, but also to various councillors," said Mr Dickinson.

"Throughout the night whenever someone spoke against her or her perspective they were shut down very quickly."

Roseville ward representative, Councillor David Armstrong agreed with Mr Dickinson's assessment of Cr Malicki's behaviour. "Because it was such an emotional topic I think she didn't really behave in the most appropriate way, especially towards the parents who were there to speak on behalf of the preschool," he said.

However Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Elaine Malicki has defended her actions at Tuesday night's meeting. She said many of the attendees were either unaware of or disregarded the council meeting Code of Practice despite her attempts to explain these rules.

"The public simply don't understand meeting procedure. We are required to follow a code of meeting practice. There are massive restrictions as to what can be said at Council meetings," she said.

Cr Malicki said she had to warn attend-

ees at the beginning of the meeting that no personal threats would be tolerated, after a fellow councillor was threatened over the phone on the way to the meeting.

The preschool behind this conflict is located on the corner of Park Avenue and Pearson Avenue in Gordon. This area is currently classified as 'community' land. However, Ku-ring-gai Council has earmarked this block of land as an area that would benefit from being reclassified as 'operational'.

Reclassifying the land as 'operational' would give Council the power to sell the site to developers. Council have told Gordon Community Preschool that if this happens, the preschool will be relocated to a new site.

Gordon Community Preschool is the largest community preschool in Ku-ring-gai and one of the largest in NSW. One hundred and forty-eight children go through the centre each week.

Parents, workers at the childcare centre, and certain councillors have spoken out against relocating the centre because of their connection to the history of the building and its convenient location.

"We have not heard where the magi-

cal new building the Council is promising us might be. We have a community that are very connected to this site, so we don't want to move from here," said preschool director, Felicity Barclay.

At the meeting on May 28 a motion was put forward to rescind Council's plans to work towards reclassifying the land. The vote on the matter was tied with five councillors voting for and five against. Cr Malicki exercised her mayoral vote to make the final decision that Council would continue with the reclassification process.

A spokesperson for Ku-ring-gai Council stressed that the land has not been reclassified yet. The process will instead take about two years, during which an independent review and further community consultation will take place.

Although many of the families concerned will have left the childcare centre by the time a final decision is made, they still think it is a worthwhile cause. Mr Dickinson said: "We believe in the cause but it's not even really for us. Our view is very much that this is about the principal of keeping community land."



Almost 200 people gathered at the Ku-ring-gai Council meeting on May 28.

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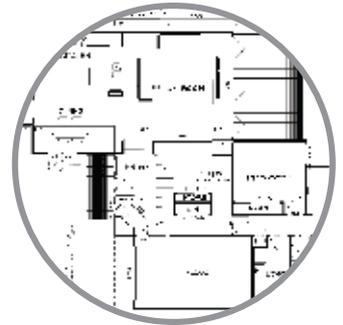


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CRIME IN KU-RING-GAI TRENDING DOWN

LOCAL MP MATT KEAN THANKS POLICE FOR THEIR HARD WORK

by Rose Moloney

OVER THE LAST two years crime rates have been trending down in the Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command (LAC).

Ku-ring-gai LAC crime prevention officer, Senior Constable Paul Cleary said crime had been trending down in all categories apart from one. "There was one that was up and that was the move-along and person searches category, which is obviously what we do when we're interacting with the crooks a bit more often."

Ku-ring-gai LAC covers 27 suburbs in northern Sydney, including Killara in the south-east, Thornleigh to the south, Dural and Glenorie to the west and Brooklyn and Berowra to the north.

Senior Constable Cleary pinpoints Hornsby as a main crime hotspot within the Ku-ring-gai LAC, due to its position as a major commuter station and retail area. "Commuters from road and rail basically converge in Hornsby. So it does stand to reason that

you're going to have more interaction here and more offences." The major crimes reported in Hornsby are stealing or transport related offences.

In contrast, Senior Constable Cleary said neighbouring suburbs; Westleigh, Wahroonga and Waitara have been particularly quiet in the last quarter, which he attributes to a higher saturation of police cars being cast to these areas.

Further towards the southern border of the Ku-ring-gai LAC, crime is slightly more sporadic, according to Senior Constable Cleary. The main offences occurring in suburbs like Killara and Gordon are break and enter and motor vehicle offences.

"There have been a couple of break-ins in East Killara in recent days, but nothing that's an ongoing pattern – those spikes could be someone has moved into the area and they drop again when they move out." In a major community meeting held on May 15, local MP Matt Kean thanked the police in the area for the work they do.

KU-RING-GAI LAC CRIME REPORT

YOUTHS AND DRUGS

On May 18 police conducted a number of patrols in the north shore area. In St Ives and Pymble, several cars were searched as were a number of youths. Three people aged 16, 18 and 20 were found to have drugs in their possession. With the 16-year-old found to be heavily effected by what police believed to be LSD.

STOLEN MAIL

Throughout April and May unknown person/s stole mail from a unit on Bobbin Head Road, Pymble. One unit owner whose credit card was stolen did not realise until the credit card company contacted them about recent purchases. The thief fraudulently purchased goods to the value of over \$2,000.

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LOCAL MAYORS SPEAK OUT ABOUT COUNCIL AMALGAMATION

by Rose Moloney

MAYORS WITHIN THE lower north shore region have spoken out against the prospect of council amalgamation proposed by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

Councils along the upper and lower north shore would be encouraged to merge into two “super councils” if the recommendations of the panel’s *Future Directions* report are implemented.

Mayor of Lane Cove Council, Scott Bennison, said while he supports the report’s objective to make local government more efficient, he does not feel council amalgamation is the answer.

“We believe that by merging we’ll lose the local aspect to the community and residents will lose out; bigger is not better,” said Cr Bennison.

Under the panel’s recommendations, North Sydney, Willoughby, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Mosman Councils would be encouraged to merge, bringing the population of their Local Government Area to 211,961.

Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Councils would also be urged to amalgamate into one larger council covering the entire upper north shore, with a population of 278,176.

The two new councils would then be part of the 15 “super councils” making up the Sydney metropolitan area.

Mayors within the lower north shore region disagreed with the suggestion to amalgamate due to their concern that it would result in the loss of community voice.

Many of the mayors also disagreed with some of the financial analysis on which the *Future Directions* paper was based.

According to the report, a motivating factor behind developing “super councils” is to curb financial deficits. The report states: “Mergers should be pursued where they can make a substantial contribution to addressing financial problems, reducing fragmenta-

tion of resources and duplication of effort, and building strategic capacity for the long term.”

Currently only one third of councils across NSW are operating within a surplus. However councils within the lower north shore all expressed they were in sound financial positions.

The *Future Directions* report used previous financial analysis from TCorp to make its suggestions. Under this analysis every council’s current financial capacity and long-term sustainability were assessed. Along the upper and lower north shore, the only council categorised as “weak” was Mosman Council.

“We can achieve the things the report is recommending that councils do, such as not duplicating services individually in each council, by working cooperatively...”

However, Mayor of Mosman, Peter Abelson, disagreed with this classification. He said although Mosman Council is running a small deficit at the moment, it has assets of \$425 million and income earning property of over \$40 million.

“The idea that we can’t pay our bills now or in the future is ridiculous,” said Cr Abelson.

While this group of councillors were all firmly against merging governance, they supported introducing initiatives that would make their councils more efficient.

“We can achieve the things the report is recommending that councils do, such as not duplicating services individually in each

council, by working cooperatively with other councils. You don’t have to merge a council’s governance to do that, you can do it in marriages, if you like, between other councils,” said Mayor of Hunters Hill, Richard Quinn.

Along the upper north shore a consensus among the councils in question has not been reached. Ku-ring-gai Council are yet to make their position clear on the prospect of merging with Hornsby Shire Council. It plans to consult with an independent body and the community before making its position known.

However, Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Elaine Malicki said she is aware that Ku-ring-gai is a very different area to Hornsby.

“Hornsby is partly rural with economic hubs, whereas we [Ku-ring-gai] are very much town centre based,” said Cr Malicki.

Currently only one Mayor in the northern Sydney region has spoken out in favour of council amalgamation – the Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, Steve Russell. Cr Russell is for amalgamation with Ku-ring-gai and has suggested extending this merger to the Hills Shire Council as well.

“I think we should investigate the concept thoroughly as I believe we have a responsibility to always investigate ways to save rate payers money,” said Cr Russell, who advocates for the economic advantages council mergers would bring.

The *Future Directions* paper is the third paper in a four-step review of local government. The Independent Local Review Panel is currently working on the final recommendation paper to present to the state government in September.

If the state government chooses to take the panel’s suggestions on board in relation to amalgamation, it will not be able to instigate mandatory council mergers. The Local Government Act specifies that a merger cannot occur without extensive community consultation.



Peter Abelson
Mosman Council

"Eighty per cent of your friends, people you meet regularly, live within 2km. That's your community and then you elect somebody within your community to run your common affairs and you can talk to them and so forth. Basically if this goes ahead with five councils amalgamated there will be no serious election for a mayor, whoever the liberal party delegates will get the job. It will be decided by 80 people in the liberal party and that's simply not democratic."



Scott Bennison
Lane Cove Council

"We're proposing that we approach neighbouring councils and work with them on joint projects that can create efficiencies for all the councils in that area. That way we achieve some of the objectives of the report but still keep our autonomy in terms of being a local council."



Pat Reilly
Willoughby Council

"Councils are trying to get the most out of this report and see where there are positives that can be put into line for the betterment of local government within the area, but you can't take local out of local."



Jilly Gibson
North Sydney Council

"We would be at risk of losing our identity. We're a very different community and a very different municipality to our neighbouring municipalities. We value that uniqueness that we have here in North Sydney and we want to retain that."



Richard Quinn,
Hunters Hill Council

"We're not convinced of the argument that you achieve greater efficiency by merging the governance of the councils. We're yet to see any firm evidence to support the bigger is better position."



Elaine Malicki
Ku-ring-gai Council

"Currently council doesn't have a resolved position. We're investigating and analysing a number of options for us with a consultant, that report will come to council in late June. Council also resolved last night to do some consultation with the people that live in Ku-ring-gai to find out their views around amalgamation."



Steve Russell
Hornsby Shire Council

"I don't understand why other mayors can't, or don't want, to see the benefits an amalgamation can bring to the residents. My position is that I was elected to look after the ratepayers and I can see substantial gains in extra services for the ratepayers through amalgamations and the efficiencies that can result."

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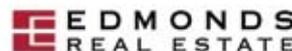
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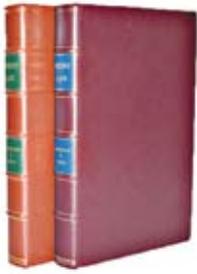
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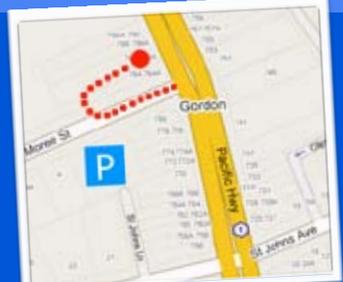
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SIGN YOUR LIFE AWAY

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WHEN YOU CLICK 'I ACCEPT'?

by Kate Lilly

THE OFFICE OF the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has assessed the transparency of online privacy policies from Australia's top-visited websites in the first international 'internet privacy sweep'. The sweep, which took place last month, investigated the readability, accessibility and content of 50 government and private sector websites, ahead of changes that will tighten Australian privacy laws next year.

The Australian privacy commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim says

Australians are expressing a growing concern over the private information they're expected to provide online. "Organisations need to be clear about what they're going to do with people's personal information," he says. "People often go ahead and agree, and enter into arrangements with organisations...if they haven't read the policies fairly closely, then they might find that their information is being used in ways they hadn't expected."

In a 2011 survey conducted by the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities, 62 per cent of the respondents admitted they don't read privacy terms and conditions because they are too long or too difficult to understand.

In addition, a third weren't sure how to use their privacy settings and 46 per cent said they were uncomfortable about targeted marketing based on their online activities.

Leonie Smith, a cyber-safety educator and ambassador for National Cyber Security Awareness Week 2013, says it's not surprising that people get confused about

what they're agreeing to. "You can Google the privacy policies and you'll probably find that there have been articles attempting to break them down into language you can understand,"

she says. "But the thing you really need to do is to be very careful about what it is that you give over to the particular platforms that you're using. For example, if it's Facebook, that if they are selling your details on to third parties that you're happy with that."

Last month's sweep assessed privacy policies against amendments to Australian privacy law that will come into effect in March 2014. The changes include the introduction of a new set of privacy principles that all government agencies and organisations covered by the Privacy Act must comply with. In particular, organisations will need to have privacy policies that provide

for the 'open and transparent management of personal information.' For Commonwealth government agencies, these new principles will replace a set that has been in place for 25 years.

The results of the sweep, due for release in July, will be used by the OAIC to educate and advise organisations who need to change their privacy policies to comply with the new transparency requirements next year. In the meantime, another amendment has been put to Parliament that, if passed, will require companies to notify their customers and the OAIC when sensitive personal information is hacked or lost.

Despite the many challenges of the online world, Mr Pilgrim says the 2014 amendments are designed to be flexible in the face of rapidly developing technology. "It is certainly a challenge, which is why we've had law reform to amend the Privacy Act," he says. "But one of the key features of the Australian Privacy Act is that it's based around what's called principle-based law...So it's written in general terms about the broad ways that personal information should be handled, regardless of whether it's being collected by on an old paper form or online. The requirements are still the same."

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JUNIOR DETECTIVES

KIDS DISCOVER THERE'S MORE TO GENETICS THAN CATCHING THE BAD GUY.

by Kaie Lilly

CHILDREN ARE LEARNING about DNA in their living rooms well before they're taught genetics in high school, according to new research by Dr Jenny Donovan, a lecturer from the University of Southern Queensland.

Her study has found children aged 10 to 12 are introduced to scientific concepts by the mass media, particularly television crime shows. "Even more children than I thought knew about DNA and genes," she said. "Eighty-nine per cent of them knew about DNA – and when I say 'knew' it's more than they've just heard of it – they could offer information about it."

Typically, genetics isn't taught until year 10. But 80 per cent of the pre-teens who completed the mass media questionnaire said they learn about genetics from television. Seventy-seven per cent related DNA to solving crime and 65 per cent related it to the identification of family relationships.

However, crime shows also encourage a number of misconceptions about DNA. For example, 26 per cent of the interviewees thought DNA has no biological function whatsoever. "They clearly know about it outside the body but not why we've got it," Dr Donovan said. "They either think it's there so we can shed it at a crime scene or so we can test it and see whose family

you belong to."

Many crime shows like *CSI* and *Law & Order* are not recommended for young viewers. Seventy-nine per cent of children surveyed said they watch crime programs rated M15+.



The CSIRO provides early opportunities for children to get learn about science.

One year 7 respondent said: "I learned about DNA on doctor shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, on *Bones* and other crime shows... We can use DNA as evidence if someone's been stabbed." Another year 5 respondent said: "DNA has to do with blood types and fingerprints, it helps to identify us. It can find out criminals and relatives. I learned about DNA on *Law & Order* and *Cold Case*."

But watching crime shows is not the on-

ly way for kids to get scientific information. The CSIRO puts out two children's science magazines as part of their 'Double Helix' education program.

Dr Kate List, managing editor of education publications at the CSIRO, said the magazines cater for children who love science and are looking for something more.

"We're not in the business of making something that is not enriching," she said. "It's certainly not a patronising approach to explaining concepts to kids at all."

While *Scientrific* is pitched towards younger readers and *The Helix* towards older readers, Dr List said similar concepts are explored in each. "We've tried to make the differentiation between the two magazines less about the actual age of the child and more about the reading age."

Dr Donovan isn't sure crime shows are an appropriate way for kids to explore genetics but she believes children are keen to know more at a younger age.

"I think kids have become a lot more sophisticated in many ways," she said. "I think what we need to be doing in primary school is interacting with the things kids are hearing about and saying... 'You've heard of genes and DNA, did you know that genes are made of DNA?' That's not a difficult concept as long as you introduce it within a meaningful context."

BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AROUND THE STATE RECEIVE MUCH NEEDED UPGRADES.

by Kaitlin Coleman

ONE HUNDRED AND twenty-nine public schools around the state have begun reconstruction and upgrades, as part of the state government's infrastructure program.

Among the schools receiving these refurbishments is local school Killara High School, which will use the funding to focus on improving their classroom facilities.

"The \$8.522 million project at Killara High School includes the construction of a new technology and applied science (TAS) facility, with materials and visual arts learning units; outdoor covered

workshop; staff study and amenities; and a lift," said a spokesperson for the Department of Education and Communities.

"This project also involves converting the existing visual arts and materials learning facilities to classrooms spaces and extended staff study, as well as the existing materials workshop to a kitchen."

Landscaping will also be undertaken in the project, which is due to begin construction soon. The tender process has been completed and the contract was awarded to Richard Crookes Constructions Pty Ltd on April 22.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Education Minister Adrian Piccoli have re-

viewed the work completed around the state so far, and discussed further work to be done. "The education capital works program is part of the NSW government's record \$61.8 billion infrastructure program which is building for the future," said Mr O'Farrell.

"We are getting on with the job of providing state-of-the-art school buildings for our students and teachers."

The refurbishments come very soon after the NSW government agreed to the Gonski national education reforms. The reforms secured an additional \$5 billion in funding for state schools, and are supposed to totally renew the education system.



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LIFE BEYOND THE SCHOOL GATES

by Nicholas Sampson *

SCHOOLS ARE ABOUT the development of the mind and the formation of character. The emphasis needs to be as much upon creating strong, generous members of society as academic success. Within the School we constantly strive to prepare our students for the 'real world' that exists around them. Our aim is to prepare them to lead productive and successful lives once they leave the School gates behind.

We want to equip young men not only to win places at leading universities but also to flourish there. The qualities we look to instil in our boys are resilience and confidence, but also a sense of co-operation, understanding and approachability.

In addition, we value critical thinking and strive to build self-belief within each of our students. A respect for difference is key to success both here at Cranbrook and in life beyond.

Academic achievement is by no means the only important aspect of a successful education. As educators we have a duty to think consciously as to how we develop the next generation to be ethical thinkers. We must encourage

our students to challenge preconceptions and broaden their minds and understanding.

Over the past few months Cranbrook has seen the entrenchment of an Ethics program into School life, lessons which are based upon discussion of important ideas which allow boys to think and work with their tutors in an entirely new way. This initiative has been led by our Head of Senior School whose excellent book *Ethics 101 Conversations* to have with your kids was published last year and which will be published in the United States shortly.

A challenge for all of us in the academic arena is to ensure a balance of experiential activities within theory and practice in the classroom. Experiences away can provide breadth of skills, development and understanding.

To this end, we have a broad and distinctive co-curricular program through which we aim to empower students and encourage them to make the most of their gifts. This program gives each of our students the opportunity to develop their skills in leadership and decision-making, as well as nurture their creative side through the arts.

In addition, Cranbrook strives to de-

velop a lifelong ethical spirit of social service through the understanding and appreciation of how materially fortunate the boys are, as first world citizens, and instil a feeling of an ethical duty to 'give back' to the community, which is not only important but also deeply enjoyable.

Our students need to uphold permanent values while displaying the intellectual agility and versatility to respond positively to the challenges laid down by a world of melting boundaries and the exhilarating but daunting pace of global competition. Courage will be essential.

Our aim as a School is to create a rounded individual within a strong academic framework, and to prepare our students to voyage out beyond the comfortable with courage and confidence. We cannot predict what the future holds for them, but our goal is to empower them to be the best that they can be, as lifelong learners, and to ensure they enjoy a rewarding and fulfilling future.

*Mr Sampson became Headmaster of Cranbrook School in July 2012. Prior to this position he was Head of the prestigious Marlborough College in the UK for eight years.

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A TIMELY FOCUS ON EDUCATION

by Megan Krimmer *

I'M NOT SURE whether there has been another time in the history of Australia since Federation that education has featured so centrally on the Federal Government's agenda. Why this focus? Why have we been undergoing an 'Education Revolution' in Australia? Because, education is so important. Good quality education is at the heart of a nation's future success. As Julia Gillard stated earlier this month: "We cannot be the strong economy we want to be for the future if our schooling system falls behind the standards of the world."

So what sort of learners do we want our 21st century Australian students to be?

They certainly need to know the basics, everyone needs those. But we need our learners to go well beyond the basics. In our schools today, we want our students to be imaginative, creative, connected and collaborative problem solvers – students who think deeply and critically, students who do not just take what we tell them at face value, but who grapple with issues and explore, and question, question, question.

However, we need our young people to develop as successful learners, and

we want them to develop into people of 'good' character who possess strong values. Young people who learn to look out for others, young people who come to an understanding of complex issues and who can advocate for those who are less fortunate than themselves. Young people who strive always to be the best they can be, and who really do want to make a difference.

That is what I believe makes a really good education. We are not just educating minds; we are educating the whole person. For this type of learning to occur, we need really good teachers. Teachers who are intelligent and knowledgeable and who are passionate about what they teach. And, teachers who are both passionate about what they teach and who they teach. We need high quality teachers.

Quality teachers see every student as inherently valuable; they know their students well and they teach the 'whole' student. They allow them to grow and develop their potential. They have a growth mindset and they teach that growth mindset to their students.

A growth mindset believes in possibilities. It believes in the fact that all students can learn and all students can im-

prove. A teacher with a growth mindset has high expectations of his or her students and encourages them to fly – to become the very best they can be. A high quality teacher loves learning and encourages that love of learning in his or her students.

It is every child's right to receive a high quality education from high quality teachers and I applaud the efforts of every educator in every sector who is endeavouring to ensure that all our children receive such an education. I have been in education for quite a while now, and it has been my privilege to work alongside educators – highly professional men and women who work very hard to ensure that they provide the best possible learning experiences for their students. These hard working professionals really do make a difference in the lives of our young people; the young people who are the future of our nation.

*Megan Krimmer's career spans more than 20 years. She had taught previously at Roseville College before becoming Principal in 2011.

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IS EATING 'CLEAN' HERE TO STAY?

CLEAN EATERS ARE TAKING OVER MANY INSTAGRAM NEWSFEEDS, BUT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SAY THIS MIGHT NOT BE A GOOD THING.

by Rose Moloney

LINDY OLSEN, EDITOR of *Clean Eating* magazine, is, as the title of the magazine suggests, a self-professed “clean eater”. For those who aren’t up to date on diet jargon, the concept of clean eating, according to Lindy, is all about eating food in its most natural state possible. This means, “no preservatives, no fillers, no packers, removing all of those things that have been added to our food over the last ten to fifteen years”.

For Lindy this means eating a mix of protein, complex carbohydrates, vegetables and good fats at almost every meal.

However, she did not always eat the balanced diet she now swears by. “I was on every single diet before I learnt how to eat properly. I did everything; low carb, high carb, high fat, no fat, high protein, I did the lot,” she says.

It wasn’t until she traded in her strict calorie restricted diet plans for a more holistic approach to eating; that she started to both feel and look good.

Although Lindy has been eating like this for 12 years now, more recently the concept of clean eating has gained a massive social media following, as a re-

sult of diets like the Ashley Bine’s ‘Bikini Body Challenge’ and Tosca Reno’s ‘Eat Clean Diet’.

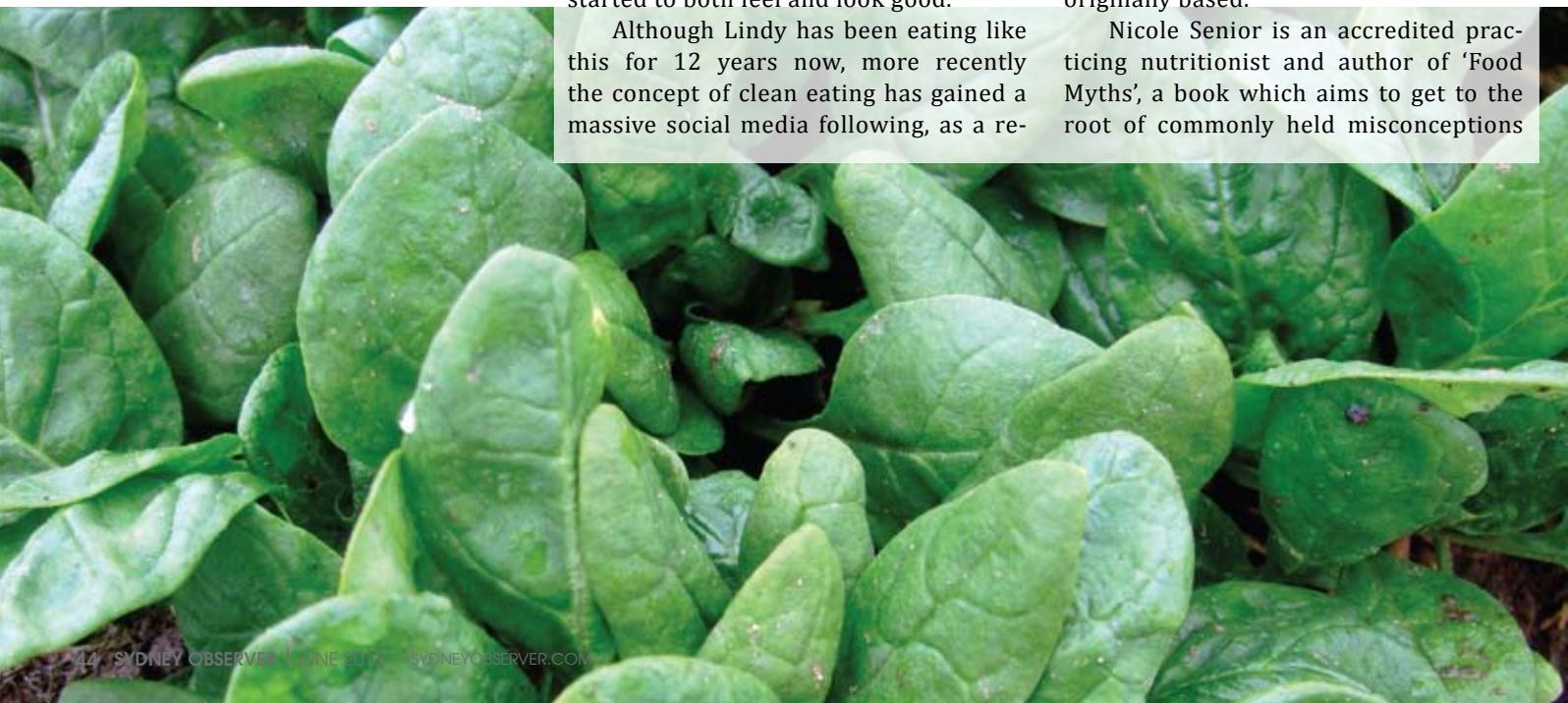
“There are a lot of people now getting behind the clean eating movement. I see clean eating challenges, I see clean eating recipes, everyone’s jumping on the bandwagon,” says Lindy.

Just type in ‘#cleaneating’ on Instagram and you will be greeted with hundreds of keen users sharing their personal clean eating journeys with their wide fan bases. These users document everything from their gym regimens to new recipes they have created.

Coconut covered mocha protein balls, chia seed oatmeal, banana walnut protein pancakes or acai berry bowls are just a few of the recipes shared daily by these users.

However health professionals have expressed concerns that due to its popularity on social media, the clean eating movement is snowballing away from the health focused ideology on which it was originally based.

Nicole Senior is an accredited practicing nutritionist and author of ‘Food Myths’, a book which aims to get to the root of commonly held misconceptions





about food. Senior agrees that there is absolutely nothing wrong with eating a wholesome varied diet with very little that has been processed. However she says that people are developing a disproportionate aversion to additives in food that don't line up with scientific facts.

"People try to avoid them like the plague but in fact they're safe for most people," she says.

She is also concerned that individuals who outwardly advocate for a particular way of eating via social media could be doing so in order to mask an underlying eating problem.

"Unfortunately a lot of these people following this kind of lifestyle are women and we know that following a restricted diet can be a rouse for disordered eating, because it's not cool to have an eating disorder, but it could be cool to be a clean eater or raw foodist," she says.

One of the biggest challenges facing clean eating advocate, Lindy Olsen, at the moment is ensuring that people are go-

ing to the right sources for information. She encourages people to avoid looking to the "clean eating social media queens and gurus" and to instead seek information from health professionals.

"I think the consumers need to be very aware that the sources on social media are not necessarily always the most credible," she says.

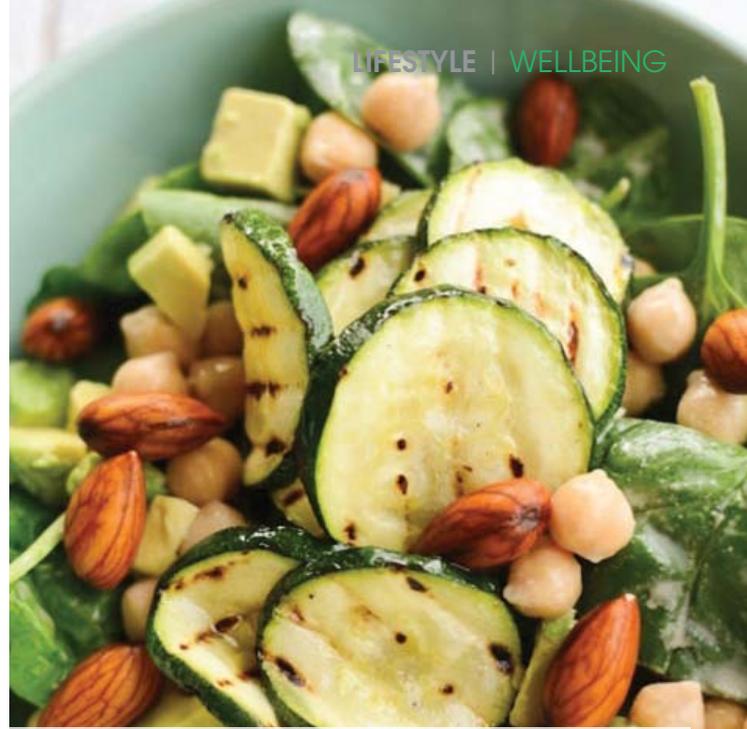
A professor in the school of psychology at Flinders University, Tracey Wade, has done extensive research into triggers for eating disorders. She says spreading a way of eating so widely on social media can be dangerous as it reaches the most vulnerable members of society. While this won't have an

impact on everybody, it has the potential to trigger a much more strict diet in some individuals.

"It leads to people becoming much more obsessed with everything they're putting into their mouth, and those are the kinds of things that can lead to eating disorders."

Ultimately, Professor Wade warned people against letting a way of eating come to define their lifestyle.

"As soon as you start to equate food with your identity and who you stand for, I think you're placing too much importance on food and that's what leads to possible problems."



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HOW TO: GO GREEN

CREATING A MORE SUSTAINABLE HOME ENVIRONMENT.



by Tess Gibney

'GOING GREEN' IS undoubtedly a daunting prospect for many. Where making the move to a more sustainable lifestyle is often perceived as being time-consuming and overly expensive, some Sydneysiders may be inclined to give it a miss. Dick Clarke, owner of design company Envirotecture and featured speaker at the 'Speed Date a Sustainable Designer' convention held at Paddington Town Hall on June 1, stepped on board to give us some hints on how to make a home environmentally happy, without the hassle, and the headache.

WHAT ARE SOME EASY STEPS I CAN TAKE TO MAKE AN ALREADY EXISTING RESIDENCE MORE SUSTAINABLE?

1. Examine how you live in the house.

Do you leave lights on constantly? Pump up the air conditioning excessively? Huddle religiously by the heater in winter? These are all obvious 'dont's' when attempting to make your abode clean, mean and green. Simply managing how you live in your house can



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contribute to a space that is more environmentally aware. Consciously remember to switch lights on and off, and try to only heat or cool locally.

Maximise how your house can respond best to the changing weather outside by opening all doors and windows – increasing natural airflow – is an uncomplicated way to improve your sustainability quota. Heating devices and air conditioning units are detrimental to environment, especially when overused. In autumn and winter, residents may be understandably reluctant to leave entrances open. However, houses that are not naturally warm can retain the cool air and stay really cold this autumn and winter; with some temperatures inside even dropping as low as a chilly 14 degrees. Where the common response is to switch on the heater in order to pump heat into the building, Clarke suggests opening windows mid-morning, when the temperature has risen to the high teens or early twenties. There is no need for artificial heat when heat exists already outside

2. Look at how your floor plan works.

There's an old wives tale that suggests the 'ideal renovation' is to simply move furniture between rooms. Although definitely a disputable idea today, there may be some truth in this. Converting a north-facing bedroom into a living room may mean you're able to catch more of that winter warmth and light in a communal living area. As the size of the windows in the ex-bedroom may be smaller than desired for a living space, you might want to increase the size of the north-facing glasses.

Be mindful of making internal changes to improve airflow. Floor plans should always be able to be divided, or closed off, into at least two halves (for example; between living areas and bedrooms), and should never be open in this climate zone. If it's a bigger house with two living areas, it would make sense to be able to individually close these off. Most houses have some opportunity to improve their sustainability, especially in terms of space heating and cooling.

3. Consider how your home is insulated.

Insulation is crucial and can be done to an already existing house. Just like an esky, insulation should be on all sides of the house, including the roof, walls, windows and floors. It can be anything from replacing walls with new, high performance double glazed units to putting films on glass windows and doors in order to quell uncontrollable summer sun and heat loss in winter.



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OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW



by Hugh Myers*

ALTHOUGH THE RECENT spell of sunny weather might be deceiving, it doesn't hide the fact that winter is now upon us. Lawns have virtually stopped growing - thank goodness, and the trees are almost bare. However just because our gardens are hibernating, it doesn't mean it's time to take things easy. June is often a dry and windy month so it's important to keep a close eye on our green friends. It's also a great time to think about introducing something new into the garden in time for summer.

ADD A POT PLANT

Are you looking for something to brighten up the area around the front door? If so, consider adding a couple of large pots of polyanthus. They come in a range of colours, are quite tough and will withstand the cold of winter well. They are not particularly fussy so use any good quality potting mix for flowers. After planting give them a drink of Seasol to stimulate growth. Keep the soil damp, but not wet, and watch out for snails and slugs.

BRIGHTEN UP BARE SPOTS

By now you should have all your spring flowering bulbs in and you will have a bed that is going to look decidedly bare for the next month or two. Pop in some of the quick flowering annuals, like statice, viola or alyssum, to liven up the bed. Your bulbs will not have any trouble growing up between them and when they are finished you can always carefully work the dead foliage into the soil as a food for the bulbs.

CONSIDER A NEW SHRUB

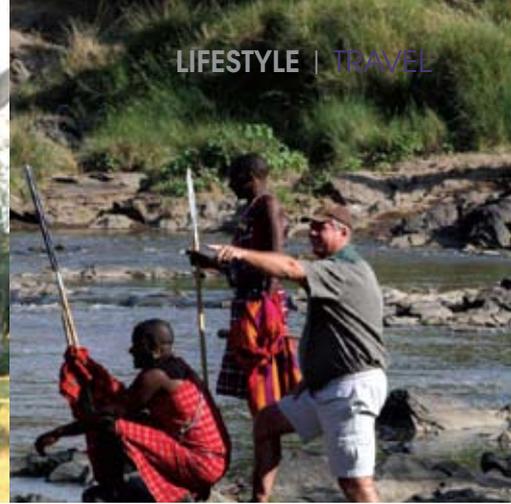
Are you looking for a shrub that is low maintenance, attractive and able to grow in deep shade? Go along to your local garden centre and ask for the Japanese sacred bamboo, *nandina domestica*. It's not actually a bamboo but an evergreen clumping shrub that grows to about 2.5m. In light shade it will produce clusters of white flowers that become red berries in the autumn. During the winter, the foliage will change from green through pink to a coppery red and then crimson. Not only are they beautiful, they are also tough enough to withstand dry conditions and irregular watering.



RE-EVALUATE GROUND COVER

Many gardens have large shrubs with a ground clearance of 15-20cm. This usually means that there is an untidy area under the shrub that accumulates dead leaves and other rubbish. Why not grow a low maintenance ground cover in that area? A good one is *zenubia pendulata*. It has dark green heart-shaped leaves and violet flowers. It will grow in full shade or light-filtered shade but it will burn in full sun. It grows very easily from cuttings and does not need regular watering or fertilising. The best part is, if you don't like it, all you have to do is pull it out. Give it a trial run and see what you think.

*Hugh Myers is a member of the Ku-ring-gai Horticultural Society inc. The society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at St Ives Village Hall, Memorial Rd, St Ives (opposite Woolworths) at 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. Phone 9449 6245.



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AMERICAN ADVENTURES

WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO EAT

by Rose Moloney

PLANNING A TRIP to the US isn't easy. There are so many cities to visit, an abundance of sites to see and just not enough time in the day, or annual leave in the world to squeeze everything in.

The first issue when planning an American adventure is usually the East Coast versus West Coast debate - LA or New York? Boston or San Francisco?

Then there's the question of when to go - is it best to save money and visit in off-peak autumn? Splurge and fly over for New Year? Or trade in an Aussie winter for a Californian summer?

Ultimately there is no clear-cut answer to any of these questions. The perfect trip will depend on your budget, timeframe and personal preferences. Just remember, no matter where or when you go, the perfect day will always be waiting for you.

This month *Sydney Observer* share some of our favourite American itineraries.



LAS VEGAS

It only takes five minutes in Las Vegas to understand what all of the fuss is about. Walking along Vegas' famous Strip feels as if you are walking through the imagination of the most fun, outrageous person in the world.

AM: Vegas is one of the few places where hotels double as places to stay and tourist sites. Wander along the Strip and check-out each of the themed hotels. See the Eiffel Tower at the Little Paris, get a taste of Italy in the Venetian, and then leave Europe and experience Egypt at the Luxor.

PM: Unwind from a day of sightseeing by indulging in a poolside cocktail; then head out to a show - Celine Dion, Cirque du Soleil and Blue Man Group are some of the most popular. Nightlife in Vegas starts late, after the show try your luck at one of the casinos or hit up one of the many bars or night clubs.

TOP TIP: Choose a hotel in the centre of the Strip. It might cost a little extra, but you will save on taxi trips. The Strip isn't long, but trying to get from one end to another in peak hour is expensive.



LOS ANGELES

LA often gets a bad rep from travellers who go there with expectations of celeb sightings and Hollywood glamour, only to be greeted with a city that appears to consist primarily of traffic laden freeways. However if you know where to go, it's easy to see where LA's attraction lies.

AM: Make the most of California's year-round sunny weather by waking up early and hiking to the Hollywood sign. The walk lets you get right up-close to LA's most iconic landmark, and the 40-minute workout you get in the process is an added bonus.

PM: Reward your hard work with a trip to one of the three Sprinkles Cupcakes stores located across LA. Make sure you taste one of the more typically American flavours - it might be your only chance to try a peanut butter chip, salted caramel or pumpkin cupcake.

TOP TIP: Rent a car if you can. Using public transport in LA isn't the most convenient way of getting around.



SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is perhaps the closest thing to Sydney in the US. It has astounding water views, a big cafe scene and a surprising amount of green space.

AM: The best way to experience San Fran is by cycling. Hire a bike in the morning and ride over the Golden Gate Bridge and back; remember to stop for those opportune photo moments.

PM: Continue on your bike ride. Take a detour through Golden Gate Park and then ride along Haight Street, one of the more eccentric parts of town. Here you can give your legs a rest by checking out some of the quirky op shops, and refuel at one of the many cafes serving fresh local produce. Haight Street Market Grocery Store, make a killer sandwich.

TOP TIP: Take the advice of your bike rental company when choosing a route. Maps don't tell you where hills are located. So in a city known for its uneven terrain, deciding to take spontaneous shortcuts can result in a lot of painful uphill battles.



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A SLICE OF HEAVEN

by Rose Moloney

IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT and the last thing you feel like doing is cooking. Well guess what? You don't have to. Rumour has it there is a long list of pizza shops in the local area waiting to do the cooking for you. This month *Sydney Observer* scouts the perfect pizza places. Now all that's left for you to do is choose a topping – something that could be easier said than done when you look at some of the delectable menus.

- **Belmontes**
774 Pacific Highway, Gordon
- Although they offer all of the classics pizza options, that's not why you order from this award winning pizza shop. Belmontes' adventurous menu takes you on a trip around the world and back. Feel like Indian? Try the 'Taj Mahal' – a tangy mix of tandoori chicken and mint yoghurt. What about Thai? Well then opt for the 'Pattaya' – crushed cashews, red Thai sauce and king prawns. And if meat just isn't your thing, then why not take a trip to Mexico with the 'El Passo' – a nacho inspired pizza topped with pinto beans, salsa, extra cheese and let's not forget the guacamole.



- **Pizza Olla**
130 Pacific Highway, Roseville
- Staying true to its routes Pizza Olla serves a range traditional Italian pizzas with a twist. Try the 'Tuscany', a thin crust pizza topped with chicken breast, roast capsicum, onion, mushrooms and fresh avocado, or opt for something a little more simplistic like the 'Romancini', a refreshing mix of tomatoes, olives, bocconcini and basil.



- **Crust Gourmet Pizzas**
29 Rohini Street, Turrumurra
- Crust is great option for those that like to keep tabs on their daily calorie intake as they provide nutritional information for all of their pizzas online. Crust now has a 'healthy choice' menu, offering pizzas on wholemeal bases, with 80 per cent less saturated fat than your standard pizza. Luckily they don't compromise on taste –the 'Beef Fajita' and 'Bruschetta' pizzas are just two of the healthier options.



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SCHOOLS GET ACTIVE OVER WINTER

245,000 STUDENTS ACROSS NSW SET TO PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH AND FITNESS CHALLENGE.

by Rose Moloney

THIS WINTER A record amount of students will take part in the Premier's Sporting Challenge in a bid to get active as the weather cools down.

More than 245,000 students in 1,100 public schools across NSW are set to participate in the program, over triple the amount who took part when the program started in 2008.

The sporting challenge, which runs over ten weeks during the second and third school terms, encourages students to find at least 30 minutes everyday to be physically active.

"Having an active, healthy lifestyle is important whether you are 7 or 70 years old," NSW premier, Barry O'Farrell, said at the launch at Bennett Road Public School in Colyton.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 23 per cent of Australian children and 60 per cent of Australian adults are now overweight or obese. Obesity has been linked to a range of health issues, including type two diabetes, sleep apnoea and liver problems.

"We face a huge challenge to bring down rates of obesity in our society - there is no better place to start those good habits than in our schools so they carry through

a healthy lifestyle to adulthood," said Mr O'Farrell.

"The Premier's Sporting Challenge is all about encouraging young people to get more active, more often and having a healthy diet.

Hunters Hill Public School are among the 1,100 local schools participating in the challenge, and have been doing so for four years.

The challenge has received widespread support from Australian athletes, with Olympic silver medallist Jessica Fox and league legend Nathan Hindmarsh set to visit schools across NSW to inspire children to get involved.

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RYDE ATHLETE TO REPRESENT AUSTRALIA

by Afrah Fazli

FROM JUNE 3 to June 5, Ryde athlete Elana Withnall, 20, will represent Australia in the 2013 Oceania Championships in Papeete, Tahiti.

Over the two days, Elana will participate in seven track and field events including the 100m hurdles, the 200m sprint, 800m sprint, long jump, high jump, shot put and javelin. Although Elana has suffered numerous setbacks over the last 18 months, she persisted to make it through to the next round.

"I unfortunately fractured my ankle after training with a spiral fracture for

months leading into the selection trails... This unfortunately led to a stress fracture of my fibula in the lead up to the selections," she said.

Elana also split open her foot and suffered from glandular fever in the last season. However, she maintained a positive outlook throughout her recovery process.

"Last year made me all the more determined to qualify to represent Australia this season, I'm over the moon that all the perseverance has finally made this possible."

When she is not studying full time at ACU, Elana is a part time model and works at the Housing Industry Association.



...TO TALK ABOUT by Patrick McAuley GOODE ON YOU AFL

KEEPING A CERTAIN level of civility at sporting arenas should be a priority for all sports federations around the world; however the same levels of civility should be applied to media groups reporting on the games. At the recent game between Sydney Swans and Collingwood, a young girl was escorted from the ground by stewards after she racially abused the Sydney Swans player, Adam Goodes.

The whole affair occurred extremely quickly. Goodes, a two time Brownlow medallist – reported the incident immediately to umpires, the umpires spoke to security and stewards escorted the child from the arena. I tend to agree with their actions, as I believe racism to be a vial thing that has no place anywhere, let alone at a sporting fixture.

The element I don't agree with was the decision by the media to film and televise the incident. Another unfortunate element was many other media companies televising the incident again when reporting on the incident. My reasoning is that the child should not have been placed in a state of such ridicule. I have no doubt she would have been placed in a situation of ridicule when she returned to school. The manner in which the media have dealt with it is reminiscent of medieval times when offenders were publicly punished as means of entertainment for the 'people'.

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WHAT'S ON | JUNE

May 24 - June 10 Sydney Vivid Light Festival

6pm (Free)

Sydney has been transformed into a spectacular explosion of light and colour. Head into the city to admire the light installations and projections around Circular Quay, experience musical performances at the Opera House, design showcases and much more.

Where: Circular Quay, Darling Harbour, Milsons Point

More Info: www.vividsydney.com



15 - 16 June Love Stories

7pm, 15 June & 2pm, 16 June (\$10 - \$90)

Fresh from a major tour with The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Chief Conductor Nicholas Milton leads Willoughby Symphony in a heart-warming performance of romantic works in *Love Stories*.

Where: Concert Hall, The Concourse, Chatswood

More Info: www.theconcourse.com.au

June 18 Talks@Willoughby presents Hugh Mackay

12.30pm (Free)

Australia's prolific author and social researcher Hugh Mackay will examine and explore the ultimate question: *What makes a life worth living?* Bookings essential.

Where: Chatswood Library, The Concourse, Chatswood

Contact: 9777 7900 or library@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

1 - 12 July HSC Trial Preparation Exams

10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm (From \$15 per subject)

Held throughout the July Holidays, HSC in the Holidays' series of lecture programs help students to learn essential content and exam methods from qualified teachers across a range of subjects.

Where: UTS Broadway, Macquarie University, UOW Wollongong & UOW Southern Sydney

More Info: www.hscintheholidays.com.au



5 - 16 June Sydney Film Festival

6pm - midnight

This 12-day festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animation from around the world. It celebrates 'courageous, audacious and cutting-edge' cinema, so it's the perfect opportunity to catch a film that's a little out of the ordinary!

Where: Venues across the city

More Info: www.sff.org.au

19 June Immunisation Clinic

9.30am - 11.am (Free)

The immunisation clinic is open on the third Wednesday of each month at the Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers. Remember to bring your child's blue book with you on the day. No appointments necessary.

Where: Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers, 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon

More Info: www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/immunisation



2 July Composting and Worm Farming Workshop

9.30am - 11.30am (Free)

Composting is a fun and easy way to recycle garden and kitchen waste and reduce rubbish by a third. Go to a fun composting and worm farming information session to get the dirt on how to create one for your home. Bookings essential.

Where: Wallarobba Garden, Wallarobba Garden, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Contact: 9847 4856 or waste@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

7 - 28 June (Every Friday in June) Self-defence: Krav maga course

6pm - 7pm (\$30 for four lessons or \$10 per lesson)

Learn practical self-defence at this four-week course at the Fitz Youth Centre in St Ives. Krav maga is used by defence forces all over the world and is a fast, effective way to gain self-confidence while learning new skills

Where: Fitz Youth Centre, Off Memorial Avenue, St Ives

Contact: Jordan Howe 9424 0994

12 June Chinese painting class

11.30am - 1pm (\$5)

This is a great opportunity to learn Chinese painting. Join in the hands-on workshops to learn new skills and enjoy ancient arts. Classes are held fortnightly. Bookings are essential.

Where: Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Contact: 9847 6994



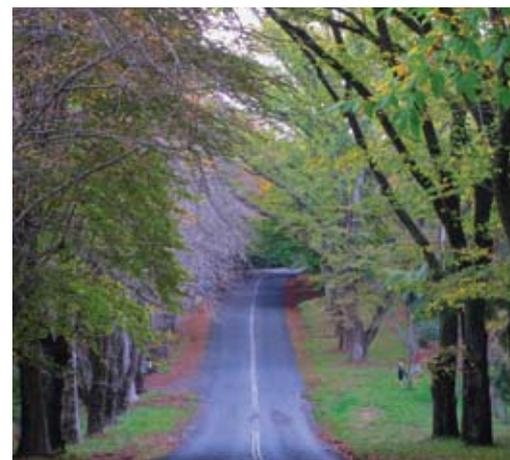
22 June Winter Magic Festival

(Free)

Held around the winter solstice every year, the Winter Magic Festival is one of the Blue Mountain's most high profile and anticipated annual events. Artists, musicians, dancers, drummers, choirs and the community will take over one of Australia's most famous towns, Katoomba.

Where: Katoomba

More Info: www.wintermagic.com.au



EDDIE'S BIG NIGHT OUT

ON 15 JUNE an anticipated 500 guests will gather in celebration of the dynamic spirit of St Edmunds School, which caters for over 120 teenagers with a range of physical and mental disabilities.

Attendees of Eddie's Big Night Out 'Espirito' will enjoy a three course meal, auctions, prize giving and performances from the students and professionals. Funnyman Jonathan 'Jono' Coleman is hosting the event, which means it's sure to be a hit. Everyone is invited to attend, so gather some friends and get together to support the school!



When: June 15
Where: St Edmunds School, 60 Burns Rd, Wahroonga
Contact: 9487 1044

ON YOUR MARKS. JET SET. GO!

THIS MONTH WE'RE giving two readers the opportunity to win double passes for an Oz Jet Boat ride. Be treated to a 30 minute thrill ride around Sydney Harbour taking in sights of the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, Rosebay and Luna Park. These sights make up only half of the experience, the other part the adventure is the thrill of being on a jet

boat. The amazing spins, slides, speed and skids will be enough to please the biggest adrenalin junkies. Didn't win the big prize? Don't despair, Oz Jet Boating is also offering 20% off jet boat ride tickets for all readers until July 31*.

* Subject to availability. Bookings essential and must mention offer at time of booking.



If you would like to enter any of the giveaway draws, tell us in 25 words or more, what you liked in this month's magazine. The best entries will be published* and go in the running for our monthly giveaway in the next issue of the magazine. **PO Box 420, Killara NSW 2071 or email editor@kamdha.com with your name, address, and contact number by the 25th of the month.**

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORDS

C	L	A	S	S	R	O	O	M	S	E	P	I	C
A	D	P	P	O	D	R	H						
P	A	D	R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	I	S	E
E				E	R	S	A	M	S				
	G	R	A	D	I	E	N	T	M	O	A	T	S
A	O	S	E	O									B
G	A	M	B	O	L	S	R	U	N	I	N	T	O
G	A	P					D	E	A				
R	E	N	D	E	R	S	D	E	S	P	A	I	R
A			R	U	E					R	D		
V	O	G	U	E	P	L	A	I	N	E	S	T	
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T	W	E	N	T	Y	O	N	E	M	O	U	R	N
E	T	A	S	S	B	R	I						
S	L	A	M	J	E	T	T	I	S	O	N	E	D

SUDOKU

4	8	3	2	7	1	9	6	5
5	9	6	8	4	3	1	2	7
7	2	1	5	9	6	8	3	4
8	3	4	7	1	2	6	5	9
1	6	7	3	5	9	4	8	2
9	5	2	6	8	4	3	7	1
6	4	5	1	2	8	7	9	3
3	7	9	4	6	5	2	1	8
2	1	8	9	3	7	5	4	6

WORDSEARCH

P	E	V	Q	V	T	Z	N	R	J	W	P	A	H	S
O	L	Z	U	E	B	U	E	E	O	J	P	T	T	
R	O	O	B	Z	L	F	R	O	E	N	I	R	T	E
N	P	N	A	S	I	L	D	R	R	B	O	F	M	M
A	E	O	A	N	Y	U	O	E	B	L	O	S	P	
M	G	N	O	E	S	O	F	L	U	N	N	E	W	E
E	D	C	E	T	B	J	U	S	O	T	T	O	S	R
N	O	X	E	L	L	B	Y	D	E	S	L	I	V	A
T	L	M	D	A	L	L	R	I	L	E	R	N	T	
A	J	A	C	K	L	O	E	R	E	C	R	S	E	E
L	Z	X	N	O	U	Y	P	Y	A	J	E	V	C	A
P	A	S	L	L	A	W	L	L	E	C	S	D	U	E
S	U	B	T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L	I	Y	R	O
T	O	V	D	E	T	I	H	W	N	V	N	Y	P	I
L	X	P	S	O	U	T	H	E	R	N	D	O	S	P

PHOTO: PINE TREES

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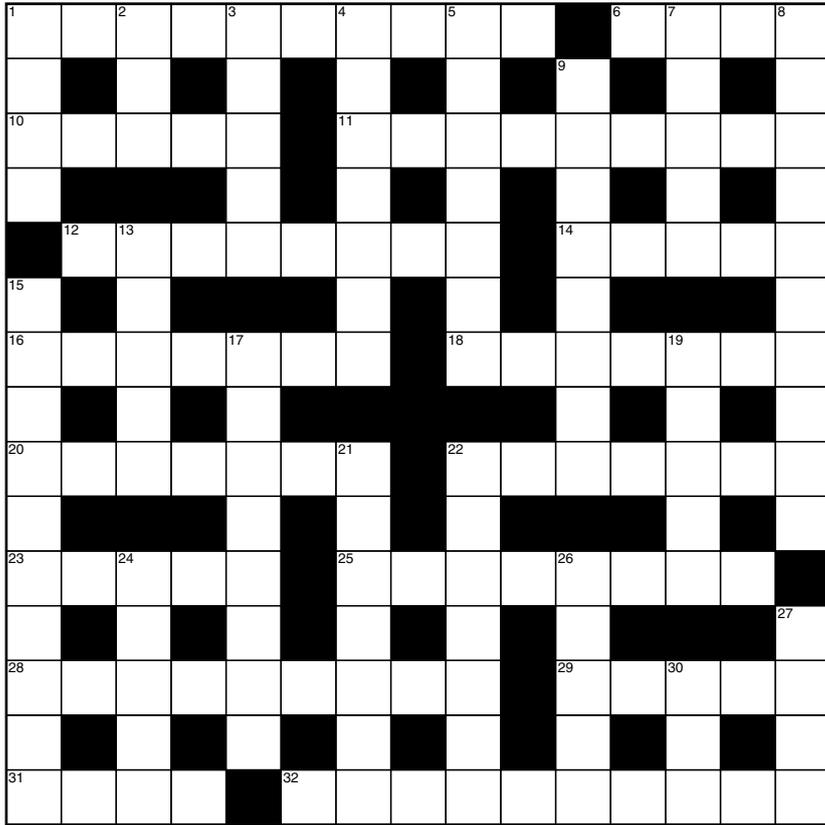
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Crosswords

Handy 3425 (Classrooms)



Across

- 1. Teaching areas
- 6. Long poem
- 10. Army chaplain
- 11. Make widely known
- 12. Slope
- 14. Defensive castle ditches
- 16. Frolics
- 18. Collide with (3,4)
- 20. Plasters (wall)
- 22. Give up hope
- 23. Fashionable, in ...
- 25. Clearest (language)
- 28. XXI (6-3)
- 29. Grieve
- 31. Crash (into)
- 32. Thrown overboard

Down

- 1. Cloak
- 2. Attach
- 3. Rapidity
- 4. Persecute
- 5. Gangster
- 7. Diva, ... donna
- 8. Chequered game surface
- 9. Engagement ring gems
- 13. Eternal City native
- 15. Irritates
- 17. Short musical drama
- 19. Comes towards
- 21. Assume
- 22. Most beloved
- 24. Actress, ... Garbo
- 26. Deadens
- 27. Writer, ... Blyton
- 30. Ashes jar

Wordsearch

PX0156 - PINE TREES



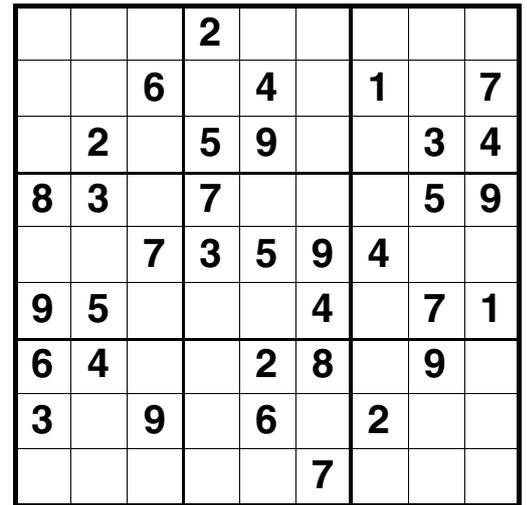
Find all the words listed hidden in the grid of letters. They can be found in straight lines up, down, forwards, backwards or even diagonally. The leftover letters will reveal the mystery answer.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| CALIFORNIA | LOBLOLLY | RESIN | TURPENTINE |
| CARIBBEAN | LODGEPOLE | SAP | WHITE |
| CELL WALLS | MONTEREY | SOUTHERN | WOODY STEM |
| CELLULOSE | NEEDLES | SPRUCE | YELLOW |
| CONIFER | ORNAMENTAL | STROBUS | |
| DECIDUOUS | PICEA | SUBTROPICAL | |
| JACK | POLLEN | TEMPERATE | |

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Rating: ★☆☆☆



Novice 0676

New release Quadrafire wood insert



New release RED 40 See Thru
Balanced flue gas fire



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