

HORNSBY AND UPPER NORTH SHORE Advocate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

YOUR LOCAL CUMBERLAND NEWSPAPER

PHONE 9476 5111

80c incl. GST

Election preview

Your say

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Dawn of pleasure

Giveaway

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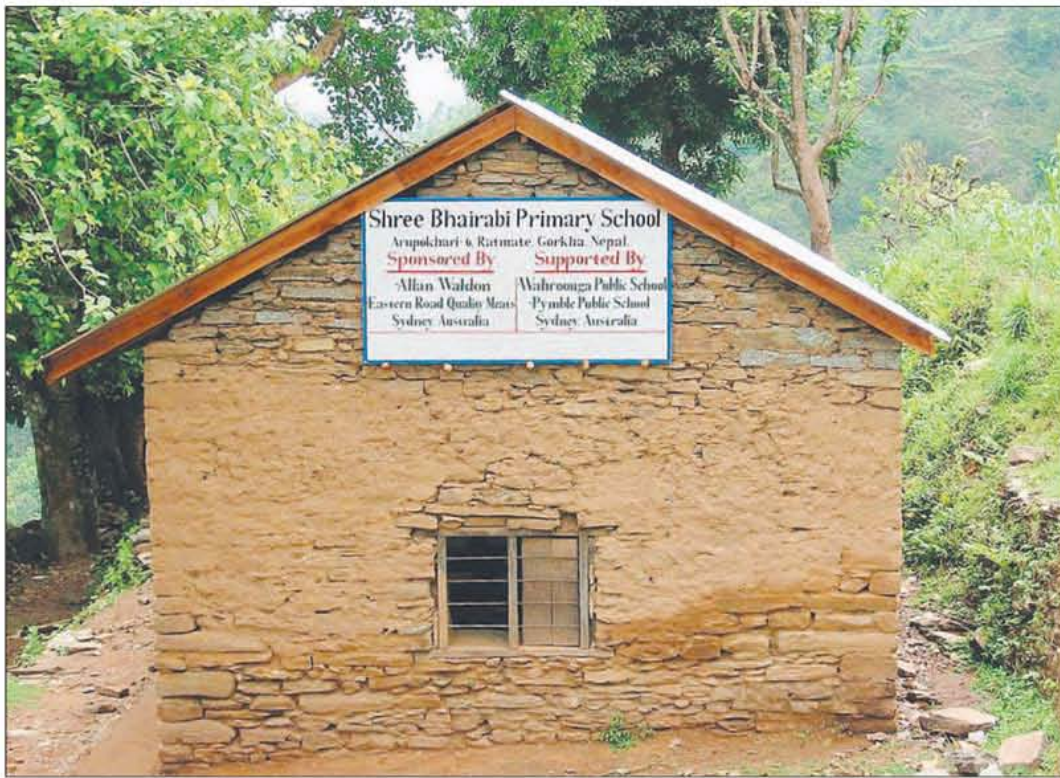
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School snags built



The previously decrepit Shree Bhairabi Primary School, near Mt Everest in Nepal. RIGHT, FROM TOP: Pupils outside their school; Allan Waldon at his butcher; a Nepalese pupil.

BRETT COX

ALMOST 10,000km away, at the base of the world's tallest mountain, is the school that snags built.

The Nepalese students there - 41 in total so far - live in absolute poverty, but the education they receive at Shree Bhairabi Primary School - a first for their country -

means they face a brighter future than their parents.

And it's all thanks to a Turrumurra butcher.

Last April, Allan Waldon trekked to the base camp of Mt Everest. He hasn't forgotten what he saw along the way.

In Nepal, 40 per cent of the population earns less than A\$10 a

month and children work as labourers rather than study.

Since he learned all this and saw how they lived, Mr Waldon has been on a mission.

With the help of Wahroonga and Pymble public schools, he has raised more than \$8000 to rebuild the previously-decrepit Shree Bhairabi school.

The school was given a new roof, desks and lockers were brought in and water has been connected to the village. It is now complete.

The \$8000 was raised by the sale of meat donated by Mr Waldon's business, Eastern Rd Quality Meats.

Customers wanting dog bones have made donations in lieu of

retail purchases and pupils from the two local schools held sausage sizzles using donated sausages.

The school has a sign honouring its generous Australian friends.

"It was seeing the people's faces, and the poverty, that made me want to do it," said Mr Waldon, of Hornsby Heights.

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<p>SUN 21st OCT - 7.30pm</p> <p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY Asquith Leagues celebrates 28 years with...</p> <p>BONEY M</p> <p>Tickets \$28</p>	<p>SAT 27th OCT - 8.30pm</p> <p>Octoberfest CELEBRATION</p> <p>Accompanied by Philippe Whittaker, his German Band, the Concertina Choir & The German Folk Dance Ensemble</p> <p>Tickets \$15</p>	<p>WED 31st OCT - 11.30am</p> <p>Variety Luncheon</p> <p>Lunch & Show</p> <p>Starring Iush & Simon Gillespie</p>	<p>TUES 6th NOV - 11am</p> <p>Club opens with MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON</p> <p>Competitions, Sweets & Giveaways!!! "Oh, Best Dressed" or "Best Hat!" Special Guest Daniel Wakefield</p> <p>2 Course Lunch & Entertainment \$18</p>
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your guide

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Weather



Today
Fine

Top Temp: 22C



Friday
Fine

Top Temp: 29C



Saturday
Mostly fine

Top Temp: 24C



Sunday
Mostly fine

Top Temp: 21C

* Responsibility for election comment is taken by the Editor-in-Chief, Bob Osburn *

The Hornsby and Upper North Shore Advocate circulates in Asquith, Benewick, Berowra Heights, Brookly, Cherrybrook, Cowan, Hornsby, Hornsby Heights, Mt Colah, Mt Kuring Gai, Narramundi, North Watsons Bay, Pennant Hills, Thornleigh, Turramurra, Watsons Bay, Wauchope, Werrislee, Westleigh. Printed and published by Canterbury Newspaper Group, a division of National News Pty Ltd. ABN 96 008 438 835 (66/ACT). 142 Macquarie St, Parramatta, NSW 2150

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School snags built

● From Page 1

"The hardships these people go through is unbelievable.

"It's not much that I do: I could be a miserable bastard and charge everyone \$3 for bones or I could do something like this and feel I've done something good for the world."

The school has also been stocked with study equipment thanks to Mr Waldon, who has now set his sights on an ambitious three-year target to raise \$70,000. He says that will build a completely new Nepalese school.

He has already identified the land, and a local financial adviser has offered to help with the detail.

"The Government over there won't help with the rural schools so, in a sense, we here can change the futures of even more children over the other side of the world," he said.

Prem Khatri, a Nepalese tour guide who befriended Mr Waldon on his

trek and who co-ordinates the project from Nepal, has helped Mr Waldon.

From Nepal, he told the *Advocate* the project was a first.

"Quality English-medium boarding schools are unheard of in isolated rural areas so this will probably be a first in Nepal," Mr Khatri said.

The newly-built school and teachers employed by Mr Waldon were a blessing to the community, most whom had never seen Westerners, Mr Khatri said.

"The village people are amazed at the generosity that can come from someone who has never stepped foot in the village," he said.

"The villagers realise they need a quality school for their children.

"They know that if their young children could attend school, and received education this would mean breaking the poverty cycle."

● www.nepalschoolproject.zoomshare.com

● Editorial, Page 32

Business theft

LAPTOP computers and cash were stolen from a Pymble building contracting business between October 12 and October 15. It is believed thieves broke in through a ground-floor window of the Grandview St business while it was closed. Police are still investigating.

'Negligence'

A WINDSOR man, 25, was fined for negligent driving after a four-car pile-up at St Ives on October 1. Police said the man's vehicle hit the rear of a car stopped at traffic lights on Mona Vale Rd, which caused a knock-on effect with three cars. It caused neck injuries for six people involved in the accident.

Bashed in loo

A WOMAN, 29, was bashed in a disabled toilet block at Westfield Hornsby about 2pm on October 12. Her male attacker was described as having facial hair, possibly in a "goatee" style and was wearing a brown jacket and a white shirt. Phone Hornsby Police on 9476 9789.

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Nurse was taking up a collection

I recently had a spell in Hornsby Hospital. It was an eye opener to me to see how one of Sydney's major public hospitals could be run by such a small staff.

It became obvious to me that it was achieved by the dedication of nurses and doctors trying to make ends meet.

While I was there, a vital piece of equipment for taking patients' blood pressure, temperature and heart beat rates, broke down.

It was one of only two for a ward of some 20 patients.

One of the nurses told me that she was collecting money to replace it, since they couldn't afford another one.

This made me wonder why the Prime Minister was in Tasmania handing out buckets of money to a comparatively small hospital, while a major one like Hornsby couldn't afford a vital piece of equipment.

Walter Bass,
Turramurra

Fire monitor roster mooted

BEFORE I read your editorial (*Advocate*, October 11), I was talking to my husband about emailing the council to see if it was feasible to set up a roster system for residents to check certain areas on high fire danger days.

The council could provide an online roster where people could put their names.

I was assuming that the council or CFA could provide information on areas where fires had been lit in the past and was assuming that these would usually be close to roads or tracks.

If as you say, a fire was lit a long way from a road, I don't see any practical way of checking, except by helicopter. (Ed: as the above-mentioned editorial stated, the pyromaniacs have to get in and out of those secluded areas somehow.)

Normally I hate the idea of ordinary citizens spying on each other but I think with proper safeguards, at least something could be put in place to try and reduce the increasing problem of fire lighting.

I'd say it has reached the stage now when we can absolutely guarantee that a fire will be lit in the shire on a high-risk day.

Perhaps the council could provide some training, and register volunteers as well as providing some sort of indemnity as they no doubt do for CFA

Regular guy tackles meaty task

IF ever there was proof that small contributions from affluent societies make massive differences to people in poorer ones, then our story about butcher Allan Waldon (see Page 1) is it.

By donating practically worthless dog bones - topped up by his very generous donations of sausages for school fundraisers - Mr Waldon has almost single-handedly propped up an entire village in Nepal.

Mr Waldon was simply wandering through the highlands of Asia on a sojourn to Mt Everest when he saw a village in need. Not content with simply experiencing their plight and leaving, he realised he could help.

Now the village has a fully-fitted school and plans are under way for a new one.

Advocate

Utterly amazing. It should be an inspiration to anyone in a position of sufficient wealth to do the same.

Governments worldwide won't. Africa rots under the tyranny of warlords and a baking sun and countries with billion dollar (yen, euro, pound) budget surpluses sit idly by. No oil there, on the main.

That is just one global example. What about here in Australia?

It seems the most significant contributions that state and federal governments make to domestic charities is legislating to allow them free or discounted television advertising.

Wow: federal governments from both parties have shown how much taxpayers' money they are

willing to spend on television advertising in an election year - the tiddly amount of airtime they demand stations offer to charities pales in comparison. So it is up to the little guys, as usual.

We are propping up our road systems with inflated registrations and the plethora of toll roads.

Stamp duty on NSW properties is single-handedly keeping the NSW economy in the black. Fact.

And the myriad of domestic charities out there are being shocked entirely by mums and dads.

Mr Waldon, you are a hero. A front page report read by 100,000 people is your reward.

But it should be greater.
Steve Graham,
Editor

and more emphasis is being put on road transport and less on public transport.

These seniors - and we'll all be one of them sooner or later - need reliable means of loading a full life without the use of a motor car.

I guess two words give us the bottom line - peak oil.

Marcia Morvai,
Pennant Hills

Melinda a picture of competence

OUR household would like to commend your choice of Melinda Crowhurst, a receptionist at Edgeworth Medical Centre, for the Employee Excellence award, as reported in last week's paper.

Over the years we have experienced first-hand how quietly, efficiently and without fuss she helps patients with their appointments and queries.

However, it's a great pity you didn't carry at least a head-and-shoulder photo of her in your short piece.

M. Hohensee,
Mt Colah

Smokers should be put in quarantine

AS a non-smoker, I am one of many people who are driven away from outdoor eating areas when a smoker decides to sit downwind from me and light up.

I understand that it is their right to cause themselves any ill-health as they may choose. The consequences of their actions already affect the general population with the strain on the hospital systems, not to mention the effects on all who love them.

My argument is that smoking, like some other bodily functions, are best performed in private.

Perhaps smoking rooms, like toilets, could be allocated for such functions. That way, no one would be offended and they could enjoy and keep their own smells all to themselves.

M. Stevenson,
Thornleigh

Bridge restorers win reader's nod

I hope I write for quite a few Galston, Arcadia and Glenorie residents who use the Galston Gorge Rd.

I wish to compliment the RTA and the constructors who did the work on restoring the old wooden bridge. They did a great job.

David Shrubbs,
Galston

volunteers. There would also have to be stringent safeguards against such things as vexatious reporting.

Perhaps, even knowing that there were people on patrol would discourage some fire bugs.

I don't think it is as simple as it seems but I hope these thoughts are helpful.

Averil Drummond,
Hornsby

on the photo. It is time local authorities start to spend more money to save human lives rather than fress and wildlife.

David Guilbert Rozeman,
Turramurra

Mindless taggers in rogues gallery

OUR gratitude goes to the *Advocate* for highlighting over the past couple of weeks the Shire-wide problem of graffiti tag attacks and the launch of Hornsby Chamber's Tag A Tagger initiative.

The initial response to Tag A Tagger has been encouraging, with our first graffiti tag photo submission at noon last Thursday.

I have also been stopped in the street and told of many incidences of bold tagging attacks, including a recent attack on a Wahroonga property, where the kitchen was repeatedly tagged during an open-house inspection.

Our tagging and other illegal and anti-social problems in this Shire are no where near as intense as some of our neighbouring Shires. The reason is due to the vigilance and fast identification of the problems - and the speedy solutions such as initiatives like Tag A Tagger produces through the partnerships formed with

Hornsby Chamber, the police, Hornsby Council, local media, business owners and residents.

Fast identification and action helps us keep a lid on the arising problems.

Tag A Tagger will now be an ongoing initiative. Full details and the graffiti tag photo submission facility will remain permanently as part of Hornsby Chamber's website, hornsbychamber.com.au

Greg Bepper,
Hornsby Chamber of Commerce

Older drivers unfair targets

IF driving competence is the major concern with elderly drivers, why should they be singled out?

Why stop there? They aren't the only poor performers.

Why not re-test drivers who have caused crashes through poor behaviour or negligence as well?

Bill Hartnett,
Hornsby

Public transport shuttled aside

I was saddened to read your article Drive to Despair (*Advocate*, October 11) because I couldn't help but reflect on the fact that more

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