

# Aged centre applauded

by Amanda Perry

PLANS for a \$600 million Retirement Living Centre on the Hawkesbury's doorstep have been welcomed by our elected representatives, who believe it will provide vital facilities for the Hawkesbury's ageing population.

The Richmond Club and McCall Gardens Community Ltd announced they were teaming up to tackle the massive project, which would include a mixture of retirement living and affordable living options and take up to 15 years to complete.

Hawkesbury MP Ray Williams joined Richmond Club's chief executive officer Kimberley Talbot and representatives from McCall Gardens last week to discuss the development.

He said development such as that proposed was "passive", and would not put a strain on facilities.

"It fits in well with the community," Mr Williams said.

Greenway MP Louise Markus, who is also shadow minister for Veteran Affairs, has welcomed the announcement.

"We have an ageing population and that is just a fact that all levels of government and the community more broadly have to plan for, and certainly when you consider that most, if not all nursing homes and aged care facilities in the Hawkesbury-Nepean



McCall Garden Community Ltd general manager Mike Blaszczyk, Richmond Club CEO Kimberley Talbot, Hawkesbury MP Ray Williams. Photo: Kylie Pitt.

region are full to capacity...this will be a huge benefit to the Hawkesbury and also the broader region," Mrs Markus said.

"It will also create huge employment opportunities for people in the area."

Hawkesbury Mayor Bart Bassett said that while the proposed development would be located in Box Hill, it was still on the Hawkesbury's doorstep.

"Any investment by anybody, anywhere, in quality aged care and assisted living accommodation is a good thing and we need it in the Hawkesbury," Mayor Bassett said.

"That way at least people who are living in the Hawkesbury, even if they go and live in Box Hill, their network of friends doesn't change, it's probably the most important thing as you get older... isolation is one of the worst things that happens."

## BRIEFS

### Burns to take place

NSW Rural Fire Service and the National Parks and Wildlife Service will conduct a hazard reduction burn at Bowen Mountain today, September 2.

About 25 firefighters will be involved with the controlled burn, which will help protect properties in Bowen Mountain, Grose Valley and Kurrajong Heights.

Residents are advised to keep doors and windows closed, remove washing from clothes lines and ensure all pets are in a protected area during the burn.

### Tax benefit changes

AS OF January 2010 any family who has failed to lodge a tax return for any previous financial year, will no longer be able to receive the Family Tax Benefit as a fortnightly payment.

The Family Assistance Office's message to those receiving the Family Tax Benefit is to be aware of the changes to legislation that will affect people who fail to lodge tax returns.

Centrelink general manager Hank Jongen said the new legislation means only those who prove their entitlement to assistance will continue to receive it and it will help prevent families accumulating overpayments each year as a result of not lodging tax returns.

For more information phone the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50 or visit [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) or [www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au).

### Business fined

ANOTHER Hawkesbury hospitality business has made its way onto the State Government's 'Name and Shame' website. David's Palm Court Bistro on Market Street in Riverstone was fined \$330 by the Blacktown City Council for Offence Code 11338: 'failing to store food in such a way that it is protected from the likelihood of contamination.'

Food outlets from more than 62 NSW councils are listed on the website.

# Hundreds gather for mates' return

by Justine Geake

INA red jacket in a sea of sombre navy blazers, singer Sylvia Raye was easy to spot amongst the participants at Monday's repatriation ceremony at Richmond RAAF Base.

The ceremony had great significance for Ms Raye as she'd been with an entertainment group who went from base to base, entertaining troops in Vietnam, and had farewelled FLGOFF Herbert and PLTOFF Carver as they left on their bombing mission on November 3. Because of their mission they were going to miss her show that night.

"I was at the Phan Rang base the night they went missing - I was there for an ABC concert," she told The Gazette. "The mini-dress I wore at that show is now on display in the Australian War Memorial."

"I said goodbye to them, and I remember asking if I could go up in the control tower to watch them go out," she said. (The answer was no).

As the camouflaged C-130 Hercules



2 Squadron's Tony Thompson, Alex Alexander and Gary Olsen, Sylvia Raye, and 2 Squadron's Greg Weekes and Curly Pearce at Richmond RAAF Base before the arrival of the Hercules.

landed at Richmond RAAF Base at 10.12am on Monday, Ms Raye stood at the front of the seating area, riveted by the sight. A friend of hers, Helen Keayes-Nolan who was also in Vietnam at the time, exclaimed "Oh, they're back Sylvia! Our comrades are home!"

Members of 2 Squadron who knew FLGOFF Herbert and PLTOFF Carver recalled the personalities of the two men to The Gazette before the ceremony began.

Gary Olsen was a radio technician

in 2 Squadron who knew Michael Herbert very well.

"I played cricket in Melbourne with Mike - he was a good sportsman and also played rugby and Aussie Rules," Mr Olsen said. "He was a graduate of the RAAF Academy, and he was going places - he would have gone very high up."

"Mike was better known (in the squadron than Robert) - Bob had only flown 33 missions. Bob was a bit of a party animal. He brought a bottle of champagne in to us when we got 100

missions out of the radar (they didn't normally last that long).

"It was a hell of a shock to us when they disappeared."

Vice president of the 2 Squadron Association Greg Weekes said he'd flown with Mike for the entire year they were in training at Amberley and said he had one of the highest bombing averages (of hitting a target).

The Gazette also spoke to Kevin Carter who was part of the search party back then.

"I was one of the first to go looking for them early the next morning," Mr Carter said. "Seven planes took off that morning, trying to find their emergency beacon signal. They would have run out of fuel by 5am if they'd stayed in the air. As we'd find a signal, we'd check it with the Americans on the radio as there were a lot of downed aircraft and helicopters in the area."

Fourteen members of the Vietnam Veterans Australia motorcycle club were also in attendance.

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**Special 'Complimentary Cuppa' Session at 11.35am, Wed Sept 9th\*\***

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**Cinema 1 Downstairs**  
Thur Sept 3rd to Wed Sept 9th

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**Cinema 1 Downstairs**  
Thur Sept 3rd to Wed Sept 9th  
Thurs to Sun 10.00am (cin2), 2.15pm & 6.00pm  
**Monday CLOSED**  
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