

PAGE 9

Blaze of glory



PAGE 16

Willy to Billy



PAGE 17

Windsor's Idol star



Home at long last



Wait is finally over: The last two Vietnam servicemen return home to Australia on Monday, 39 years after disappearing on a bombing raid. Read our stories on pages 3 and 13. Photo: Kylie Pitt

World-class care

EXCLUSIVE by Amanda Perry with Josh Cornish

A \$600 million Retirement Living Centre servicing the Hawkesbury and beyond is being planned for the north west growth area.

Richmond Club is behind the development, in partnership with McCall Gardens Community Ltd, which owns a large chunk of prime land off Terry Road, Box Hill.

The club's chief executive officer Kimberley Talbot confirmed the plans on Tuesday, saying it would take up to 15 years to complete.

"It's that big...and it will create a large number of jobs in the construction phase and beyond," Ms Talbot said.

The development would be spread across

100 acres of land and include retirement living with up to 200 beds, part of which would specifically cater for aged persons with a disability.

It would also include affordable living options for the elderly and other members of the community who need it.

The University of Western Sydney has already shown support for the project and, while Ms Talbot said discussions regarding its level of participation would continue, it has indicated an interest in establishing an on-site education centre.

Another part of the project, and possibly the first stage to be developed, will be to provide sporting grounds for local children.

Ms Talbot said it would mean working closely with councils, the Department of Planning and other government bodies to

secure grants to establish the sports fields.

If all goes to plan, Ms Talbot said the multi-million project could be under way in about 3 1/2 years.

While Ms Talbot has worked passionately to provide more aged care places for Hawkesbury residents for many years now, the proposed Centre will also be focused on specifically meeting the needs of ageing residents with a disability.

Project partner McCall Gardens has operated a facility providing accommodation and support services for people with intellectual disabilities at Box Hill for more than 50 years now.

"The opportunity to complete a joint venture with McCall Gardens was fortuitous," Ms Talbot said.

"We share the same vision of our need to service the broader needs of community and society.

"The fit between our two organisations is just right."

Hawkesbury MP Ray Williams, who is right behind the project, said it would provide a "wonderful and unique" aged care facility for the region.

"It is wonderful to see The Richmond Club and McCalls moving into this joint venture," Mr Williams said.

He said it would be the first time aged care had been "incorporated into a neighbourhood centre community in this way", as the Government has plans for residential development in the Box Hill area, which is part of the North West Growth Sector.

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