

The MOLONG EXPRESS

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THURSDAY 25 May 2017

Milestone at Molong Health Service Stage 1 of hospital redevelopment opened



The first stage of the new Molong Health Services, Yuranigh House, was officially opened last Friday. An elder of the custodians of the land, Lewis Burns of the Wiradjuri people, opened the celebration with a traditional smoking ceremony in and around the new building followed by traditional songs played on the Didgeridoo. The crowd of 120 people including residents, staff, hospital auxiliary, community members and management of NSW Health were in attendance to see the new building and to celebrate the historic moment in the rebirthing of the 'hospital on the hill'. (Above 1 to 7) Liz Mitchell (General Manager, Western Local Health District), Dr. Adrian Zambo (HealthOne), Deborah Kenna (Molong Health Service Manager), Dr. Robin Williams, Shinton Jacob (Molong Health Services Nurse Manager), Scott Griffiths (Chair of Western Local Health District Board), Phil Donato (State Member for Orange), Lewis Burns (front). We are a very lucky town! P.7 and P.9

Students offer ideas to Council - and offer to help



Jo Balcombe (Canowindra), Tiede Thomas & Brooke Watts (Molong) Claran Ety (Canowindra), Mayor Ian Gosper & (right) Bridget Smith & Blake Cameron (Yeoval)

Each year students from Cabonne's high schools get to pitch their needs and wants to Cabonne councillors. This year a skatepark topped the list for the Yeoval representatives who stated that the park would relieve holiday boredom and provide a healthy environment for the town's youth. At Canowindra new footpaths leading to the school would alleviate students having to walk through wet and mud on wintry days and keep them off the roads. The students offered to assist with a mural on park sheds to ward off graffiti and to maintain community gardens to brighten up the town. Molong Students spoke for all in seeking return of the popular youth Disco's and wondered if the Library could open daily so that students could use it after school. A new canteen is required at the Pony Club grounds which would enable the club to attract more equestrian events.

What's happening this week

OPEN - Molong shops, servo, supermarket, clubs, hotels, cafes, craft cottage, speciality shops

Thursday 25 May
Biggest Cuppa UPA Hall

Friday 26 May
Molong Catholic Parish Fete 3 p.m.

Saturday 27 May
Footy Rugby Union - Molong Magpies vs Yeoval @ Yeoval 3pm

Sunday 28 May
Footy Rugby League Manildra Rhinos vs Eugowra @ Manildra 2pm

THE SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD APPEAL

VOLUNTEER COLLECTORS NEEDED

for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal doorknock in Molong.
Sunday 28 May, 10 am to noon.
Meet at 43 Gidley St, between 9.45 and 10 am.
If anyone can help, please contact Margaret Dean 6366 8803



Next Week: Music, Cuppa and Sponge Cake helps the Cancer Council's Biggest Cuppa fundraiser.



Molong Rotary - new president P.6

Cooper Kelly Player of the Week for the Molong Falcons Soccer team



Dyfal donc a dyr y garreg

"Persistent blows shatter the stone" - Perseverance pays in the end

Welsh Proverb



This is a short story to say thank you to Welsh born GP, Dr Robin Williams, who moved from Gulgong to Molong and Cabonne some 11 years ago to develop the practice in the new Waluwin HealthOne centre in Bank Street.

From the start, Robin Williams was welcomed warmly by the local and district communities. He entered our lives with a gentle smile, warmth, a curious sense of humour - and excellent medical diagnosis and medical service delivery skills.

At last Friday's opening of the Molong Health Services Stage 1 (Yuranigh House) building last Friday - Robin Williams quoted the above Welsh Proverb - relevant to how this new building (and funding for Stages 2 and 3) had been achieved - and how Government delivery of rural health services had found a new understanding.

'Persistent blows shatter the stone - Perseverance pays in the end.' True!

One can only imagine how huge the stones (perhaps of boulder size) Robin Williams found in front of him as he worked to establish HealthOne - and to achieve in a small town like Molong - rural health services and delivery of the future - for the future.

At the time we remember a long-held fear remained in the community that the Government of the day would order the closure of the Molong and District Hospital. Suddenly, and after a short 11 years (that we are aware of) we stood last Friday looking at the completed first stage of the development of the new look Molong Health Services - Yuranigh House - which has created a new standard of medical care for this rural town and districts most senior citizens.

"How did this happen?" - the Express asked Dr. Williams at the opening event.

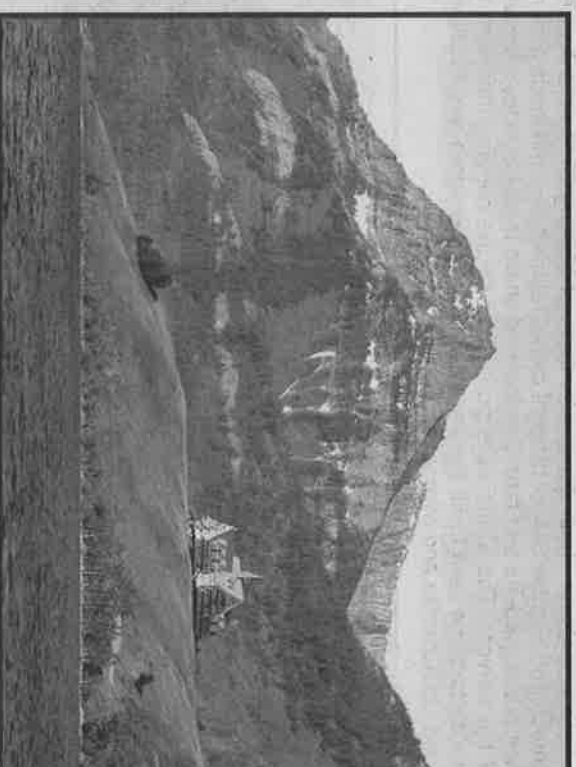
We knew what his response would be - he has told us the same many times before in answer to the same question.

With his warm smile he responded "teamwork". True! A lot of people were clearly involved from the then Minister (Jillian Skinner), Health Department heads, senior managers, middle managers, service deliverers, Cabonne Council, AMA, Rural Health ... and the list goes on. In fact, we have

probably only touched on the huge number of teams involved who had to be brought together in order to gain the new Molong based rural health services we now have in place - with more coming soon.

Reality check advises us to search further - delve further. To achieve the new health services for Molong - and to bring together a number of diverse teams - there had to be one leader who could bring together the various teams created for the project by Government, Departments and agencies, local government, rural health policy makers, treasury, local members, staff at all levels ... and the wider community.

One who could lead from the front when needed - and be prepared to walk at the back of the teams when needed to encourage confidence, direction and leadership skills to



bring forth more leaders for the task ahead. He won't admit to it - but we believe in the Aussie saying - 'give credit where it is due'.

We reckon the leader and leadership has come from Dr. Robin Williams. In fact there's another Welsh proverb that comes to mind - 'a fo ben, bid bont' meaning 'if you want to be a leader, be a bridge. A bridge that helps others to achieve their aims. A bridge that brings like minds and common goals together.'

Thank you to Dr. Robin Williams, his wife and family for their support in what must have been 11 or more years of 24/7 probably 16 hour days devotion given to the Molong/Cabonne and other rural districts - and to the many members of teams who contributed to the re-birthing of Molong and Districts health services and care facilities. We are so lucky!

Bodger, bodging and blacksmithing - Will these skills return?

JOHN ROZENTALS travels to Bathurst and takes a step back in time ... or is it a step back into the future?



this month's inaugural Artisan Trades Trail in Bathurst was so important.

The trail provided people with an opportunity to slow down and to appreciate age-old skills; to think about what they were consuming and what they were wasting.

Lucy White, Bathurst Council's Destination Development Manager, who did much of the organising for the weekend, is quite right when she talks of an increasing desire for the pace to lessen, for people to regain some touch with the source of their sustenance.

"With the trend to slow down, there's renewed interest in age-old crafts as people find meditation in these bygone trades," she said.

"Bathurst has one of the largest numbers of traditional artisans in Australia, and this trail is a unique opportunity to see a variety of them at work in beautiful historic locations."

The idea was to celebrate 20 crafts at 10 historic sites.

Some crafts showed themselves to be more potently useful than others. Probably there were

quite a few more than 20. Perhaps there might have been a few less - but I doubt it. Who cares? It was provocative and highly enjoyable.

There was certainly enough to do over a couple



of days. The Woman with Altitude and I gave it a good nudge, but unfortunately we didn't get to the Chifley Home, where one of Australia's best-loved Prime Ministers lived, and where there was a display of 19th-century convict women's trades and bonnets.

We did, though, particularly like the demonstrations by heritage artisans creating beautiful things out of wood, bricks, glass and stone at the old Tremains Mill, and the clydesdale horses, blacksmithing and stone-letter cutting, etc. at the Agriculture Research Station.

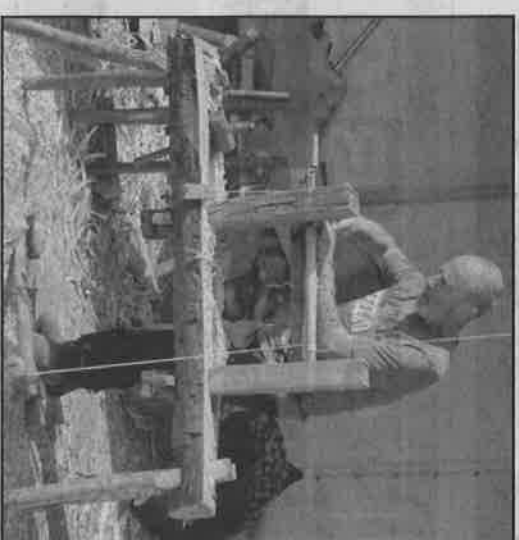
These areas also proved wonderful places to discover bodging. What a lovely word that is. Haven't heard it? Go look it up, though a photo or two here will provide a clue.

And what about the displays and exhibitions of all things textile - spinning, weaving, embroidery, crocheting -

plus beading, candlewicking, calligraphy and wirework at the Uniting Church Hall.

Now, there were some people with age-old skills being paid less than age-old labour rates for their effort.

To be charged \$3 for a bookmark personalised with a coloured beautifully printed name. Pffft. Some of the



techniques had been taken up by modern commercial practice. We did go to McDowells Herbal Treatments, in one of Bathurst's quite industrial sectors, to watch a fermentation of various herbs being pressed - and destined for use in the treatment of some quite probably well bred equines.

Lucy White hopes that the Artisans Trades Trail weekend will become a feature of Bathurst's calendar. I really hope that her expectations are realised.

These are people practising the arts and crafts upon which our civilisation - cities such as Bathurst - were built.

The skills need to be preserved, and some day we might, indeed, yet need them again. Perhaps just like a seed bank of last resort, we do need a skills, or artisans, bank. Just to be sure, to be sure.

By John Rozentals

The argument in Molong's top pub was pretty one-sided. Most participants seemed to agree that today's apprentices just weren't being taught the same craft skills as their forebears had.

They just didn't know how to sharpen a chisel or how to work out the pitch of a roof - let alone how to carve a beautiful violin from a couple of chunks of wood.

They were too tied up with the waste and excesses of a throwaway society. Of a world in which poor-quality chisels had become so cheap that you were better off buying another one if you'd accidentally hit a nail.

It was in this context, particularly, that

People & Places

Yuranigh House opens at the new look Molong Health Service



(L) Wiradjuri Elder, Lewis Burns performing the traditional smoking ceremony on the inside and outside of the Yuranigh building at the official opening of Stage 1 of the Molong Health Service redevelopment.



A large crowd gathered on the verandahs of the new Yuranigh building at the Molong Health Service (hospital) to watch the official opening of what is Stage 1 of the old cottage hospital redevelopment and rebirthing. The site, once occupied by the Maternity Wing - was demolished to make way for the state of the art new building where residents will have access to bright new rooms with magnificent views over the town - and their own ensuite. (Above) Molong Health Service Manager, Deborah Kenna with former Matron Margaret Starr and long-time senior nurse, Rosie Blowes who with Julie James (Hospital Auxiliary and long-time staffer) shared the honour of unveiling the plaque.



(L) Pleased with the new building - NSW Health Senior Planner Michelle Davies and Construction Manager for Lipman, Andrew. The new rooms are welcomed by management, staff and most of all the residents of Yuranigh House.



Long-time staffer and support of the Molong Health Service, Julie James (right) at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque. Julie spoke on behalf of the Molong Auxiliary members who have been long-time fundraisers for new equipment at the hospital.

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