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CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN
Express

Happy Valentine

Advertising Feature

New outdoor area ideal for celebrating

WHY not celebrate Valentine's Day in Bankstown Sports Club's new \$2 million outdoor area?

The facility is a leafy tiered space with a combination of decking and paved areas, large umbrellas, native trees and grasses and a water feature.

It provides seating for about 220 patrons and is adjacent to the new carpark entrances being developed on Greenfield Pde. There are also five metal screens with cutouts of native foliage which are backlit at night to create a garden ambience.

A team from builders Paynter Dixon put the finishing touches on the site in late December.

Club assistant secretary-manager, Mark Condi, said the new outdoor area was a response to the popularity of the club's other outdoor areas and also meant patrons who wanted to smoke could do so in a pleasant environment.

However, Mr Condi said patrons who did not smoke would also enjoy the area, which was large enough to cater for both groups. "We have installed eight waterproof plasma televisions outside so members and patrons can comfortably watch sporting events and we have facilities for a portable bar and barbecue," Mr Condi said.

"Special care has been taken to landscape the facility with selected native plants including an adult smooth-barked apple gum (Angophora Costata) that will grow to about 25 metres, when fully mature.

"There are also two feature native



Alfresco dining and unwinding will be popular at Bankstown Sports Club's outdoor area.

tackeroos (Cupaniopsis Anacardioides) and a variety of water plants and grasses. "The large trees are a striking variety with twisted and gnarled branches and are a unique feature of this outdoor area."

In future, as part of the club's master plan, there will be a bridge linking the outdoor area to the new conference centre.

THE GRAND BALLROOM

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Pokies permits loophole

REBECCA WOOLLEY

SOME rogue hotels have been trading machine permits to increase their pokie numbers without allowing residents to have a say on the community impact.

Under current State Government laws, hotels in high-density or lower socio-economic areas where gambling is rife are restricted on the number of machines they can have.

Gaming and Racing Minister Kevin Greene said the government would tighten up its legislation after it emerged some hotels were passing their permits back and forth between each other.



Comment on this story at
theexpress.com.au

"Our laws restrict poker machine increases in high-density gaming areas to make it hard for venues... to gain approval for more poker machines," Mr Greene said.

"Part of this process involves a Local Impact Assessment to give the local community a say about the application in those high-density regions.

"Up to eight hotels have circumvented this LIA process by trading machine permits between hotels in high-density

areas, and sometimes back again, each time retaining the increased machine threshold. "In one case a hotel in a high-density gaming area transferred poker machine permits to another local hotel and then back to the original within 24 hours, resulting in thresholds of both hotels increasing without the LIA test."

Mr Greene said the hotels - around Newtown and the inner city - had been manipulating the laws put in place to restrict unchecked poker machine increases. "We started to wind back poker machine numbers in 2001 and we're continuing now, while also cutting red tape to make it easier for venues to trade machine permits and bring them out of the system."



Poker machine trading rules under review.



SPORT A MONTH HOCKEY

Come and Try HOCKEY

FREE of charge throughout the month of FEBRUARY 2010 and find out more

information about Hockey in your local area.

Bankstown City Council has teamed up with Bankstown Sports Hockey Club to give people in Bankstown a chance to 'Come and Try Hockey' during the month of February 2010, completely FREE of charge.

Everyone who registers and takes part in a 'Come and Try Hockey' session throughout the month of February will receive a FREE Active Bankstown Gift.

So what are you waiting for, tell your family and friends and come join in the fun!

For a **FREE brochure please visit** www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au or call **Council on (02) 9707 9641.**



DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The following development application has been approved by Council in accordance with Section 101 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 public notification is given of this approval. Copies of the development consent are available for public inspection, free of charge at Council's Customer Service Centre between 8.30am and 5.00pm weekdays.

DA 940/2009 Lot 11 DP 831482 No. 862 Hume Highway, Bass Hill

Fitout and Use of premises as a Medical Centre, Ancillary Pharmacy and Convenience Store

Plans and application details may be inspected at Council's Customer Service Centre during business hours.

NOTE: Council may be asked to reveal your submission under the Freedom of Information Act. If you wish to be consulted first, please indicate that your submission is made "in confidence".

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

The Bankstown Recreation Expo is taking place on **Saturday 13 March, 2010** at Carysfield Reserve, Johnston Road, Bass Hill.

The Expo is taking place from 2:00pm - 6:00pm, come along and join in the fun and games!

You can;

- Take part in a skateboard competition
- Try out lots of different sports
- Have a go on the jumping castle, giant slide and bungee trampoline
- Find out how you can become more active in your local area
- Have your fitness and body composition tested
- And much more....

For more information call Council's Recreation Officer on **9707 9641** or visit www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au

ROAD CLOSURE FOR BANKSTOWN LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

The following roads will be closed to vehicle traffic from **10am Friday 5 February to 6pm Saturday 6 February 2010**

- Chapel Road South from the corner of Greenfield and Olympic Parades

BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL
PO Box 8, Bankstown NSW 1885

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Upper Ground Floor, Civic Tower, 66-72 Rickard Rd, Bankstown
P 9707 9999 **HOURS** 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday
E council@bankstown.nsw.gov.au

- Bankstown City Plaza from the corner of Restwell Street
- Dale Parade from the corner of Olympic Parade
- Dale Parade car park

NOTE: There will be no change to the bus timetable. The bus corridor will remain open to buses.

Council News

Mayor Cllr Tania Mihailuk
General Manager Mr Luke Nicholls
2 February 2010

MAYORAL MESSAGE

2010 is set to be a big year in Bankstown with a number of projects well underway.

Construction work began last month on the new Bankstown Arts Centre, at the site of the existing Arts and Crafts centre in Olympic Parade. This is a \$5.8 million project made possible through financial support from both the State and Federal governments, and investment money from Bankstown Council. The construction is on track to be completed by November this year, so I will be reporting on its progress regularly through this column.

Work has also started at Padstow as part of Council's Town Centre Improvement Program. This includes new pavements, landscaping and outdoor art works developed through workshops with the community. To the north, Yagoona will also be seeing changes as part of the Improvement program.

Back in the Bankstown CBD, we will be completing a new centre which combines the Women's Health Centre, occasional child care service and the immunisation clinic. Works will begin later this year.

Following on from the new seating and pavers around the bus interchange, improvements are planned for South Terrace and into Chapel Road South as well as the old bus stop on North Terrace. This will include new seating, lighting and pavements.

Improving traffic flow in and around the city is vital. Council has been meeting with State Rail to design the underpass between North and South Terrace and we will be considering tenders for the design and construction of the new underpass in March.

Of course, all of these projects and others have been developed after meeting with residents, business owners and government agencies. We will be holding further community consultation over the next few months to develop the long term strategic plan for the City of Bankstown.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are held in the Bankstown Council Chambers located Cnr Chapel Road & The Mall, Bankstown commencing at 6pm
- *All residents welcome.*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Development Committee Meeting

- Tuesday 9 February 2010

Ordinary Meeting - Tuesday 23 February 2010

www.bankstown.nsw.gov.au



Adrian Bezina is vying for the title of the nation's best all-round man.

Picture: NICK BLOUKOS

Man of the year may be your neighbour

AUSTRALIA'S perfect man may live in our own backyard after Clemton Park's Adrian Bezina was among 12 selected as a finalist in *Men's Health* magazine's hunt for the nation's all-round man.

Judges will select the man they believe is the best in balancing all aspects of his life, including work, relationships, friends, fitness and health.

Mr Bezina said he entered the competition for the experience and if he won it would be a bonus.

"I entered for the fun of it but when they

called and said I was in the top 12 I was extremely surprised and happy that I made it this far," he said.

"If I win it would be a really good accomplishment. I train really hard to improve my fitness so the thought of being put on a magazine cover is wonderful.

"I would also put the \$10,000 towards a deposit for a unit."

Since being a finalist, he has been involved in photo shoots on the beach and in a studio, as well as spending two nights at the Diamant Hotel in Potts Point.

Mr Bezina said the experience had changed his life.

"Before entering the competition, there were things that used to hold me back but not any more," he said.

The winner will be crowned the *Men's Health* Man on March 16 at a special event in the city.

The winner will feature on the cover of the magazine's April edition, as well as winning \$10,000, a two-year magazine subscription and a \$1500 Nivea prize pack.

\$200,000 for club

BANKSTOWN Cricket Club has received \$200,000 towards the construction of the club's proposed indoor sports centre and education facility. The grant was announced under the State Government's Community Building Partnership Program. Once completed, the facility will be used by community, school and sporting organisations.

Teaching popular

TEACHING was the most popular course at UWS' Bankstown campus, with 370 main round offers for master of teaching (primary) released last week. A total of 253 offers were made for bachelor of arts, followed by 177 main round offers for bachelor of policing and 175 for psychology courses.

Free workshops

BANKSTOWN council is holding free Chinese calligraphy workshops at Panania and Padstow libraries this month to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Local artist Fangmin Wu will teach the ancient art at Panania Library on Wednesday, February 10 between 11am and 1pm, and at Padstow Library on Friday, February 12 between 10am and noon. Bookings are essential. Call 9707 9737.

Children in care

INCREASED reporting to the NSW Community Service's helpline has led to an increase in the number of children in out-of-home care, a report has found. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare said there were more than 300,000 reports of children at risk of harm made in 2008/09. This had led to an increase into number of children taken into care, Community Services Minister Linda Burney said.

Folksy art

RIVERWOOD Community Centre is getting crafty and inviting people to attend its card making, folk art and knitting sessions on Tuesdays from 10am to noon. The centre is also seeking a volunteer folk art and painting teacher. If you would like to help out, call Greta on 9533 0100.

Sartor gets tough

FRANK Sartor has announced a crackdown on solariums which could see them fined \$11,000 for breaching new safety regulations. After being appointed Minister Assisting the Health Minister during Premier Kristina Kenneally's reshuffle, Mr Sartor said he would not tolerate solariums breaching the law. His warning followed an audit which found 87 out of 89 solariums in Sydney's CBD did not comply with regulations.

alleged \$3.7 million ice distribution syndicate. Five simultaneous raids at homes in Bankstown, Merrylands, Hinchinbrook and West Ryde were carried out on Thursday night when police also seized more than 200 ecstasy pills and \$40,000 during the raids.

Two laboratories containing chemicals and equipment allegedly used to make ice were discovered at Hinchinbrook.

Police allege the \$3.7 million ice haul, in which they seized 3.1kg of ice, could have equated to about 63,000 individual drug deals.

Acting Central Metropolitan region commander Stuart Smith says police had smashed a major drug distribution ring.

Padstow man charged

warehouse and charged them on Wednesday.

Pak Lam Li (also known as Patrick), 45, and Singaporean national, Keng Chuan Koh, 30, were jailed after being arrested in Geelong in December 2006 by Victorian police over a \$51 million liquid ecstasy haul.

On December 18 that year, police found 340 litres of liquid ecstasy in their hire van.

The netting of the drugs led police to discover the \$540 million haul at a Castle Hill industrial complex in January 2007.

Police linked the pair to the

ment. Koh was charged with the same offences.

"They organised a false company, hired a factory at Castle Hill and were in possession of the drugs," Det-Sgt Stephen Dodd told reporters last week. On Wednesday, the pair was transported to Sydney from Victoria and appeared at Parramatta Local Court.

They were refused bail and ordered to front the same court on March 25.

In a separate incident, a Bankstown man, 48, was one of seven people charged over an

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PANANIA 75 Anderson Ave. Panania Ph. 9792 5555
Open: Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm

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