

Conversations.

TALK WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Reject cemetery

I WOULD like to speak out in support of Jacqui Kirkby in relation to the plans by the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust to build a cemetery next to her historic property, Varroville Estate, in the Scenic Hills (*Macarthur Chronicle*, September 10).

For years she has fought tooth and nail to preserve the zoning of the Scenic Hills for us all. She continues to fight AGL's plans to mine CSG from under our homes.

A cemetery is simply not an acceptable use of land zoned scenic protection, no matter how many trees they want to hang on to.

With other cemeteries in Sydney, such a zoning change has brought with it housing development as well. Surely our councillors will have the sensitivity and foresight to reject such a proposal.
NEA MAKOWSKI, Campbelltown

Save our Scenic Hills

YET another assault is being mounted on our Scenic Hills by a special-interest group determined to deny access to the public.

For those outside the area, Varroville Lookout, which adjoins the Scenic Hills, is a sloping stretch of open grassland leading to a vantage point where on a clear day, you can see all the way across the Cumberland Plain to the CBD, Botany Bay and the ocean beyond.

On festive nights such as New Year's Eve one can enjoy the firework displays on the Harbour Bridge. I often point out this location to visitors as one of the delights of the Campbelltown area.

Of all the responses on this issue, Cr Paul Lake's seems to me the most fatuous.

He commends this "Disneyland for the dead", to quote Jacqui Kirkby's apposite phrase, because "it cannot be seen from the road".

Come to think of it, with more and heavier traffic expected to saturate the ever-widening road scheme, is that such a good thing?
FREDDIE AND CHRISTINA HILL, Eschol Park

Disease survivor

IN REGARDS to the meningococcal warning (*Macarthur Chronicle*, August 20), I was a survivor of meningococcal septicaemia in 2005.

I was then 59; unheard of as the public believed this disease only affected the young. I was told a disease doesn't know the age or sex of the recipient.

My symptoms were headache, slight fever, sore back, sore all over, drowsiness, small mark on back of shoulder. Then comatose.

I feel sorry for the GPs as it is a hard one to detect in the early stages, and one only has a very short time to receive a penicillin shot. Every fifth person can be a car-



Jacqui Kirkby leads the fight against coal seam gas mining in February.

rier. It's a bacteria at the back of the throat, and a cough, sneeze or kiss can transmit it to anyone who may be feeling a bit run down.

Inoculations are available and are definitely advisable.

A vast number of the people suffer a mummification of the extremities: blackening of limbs like gangrene.

Hands are stiffened and a gradual blackening occurs.

As a matter of fact, most hospitals treat it like gangrene and amputate.

I was fortunate to have a private health fund and lateral-thinking doctors and surgeons.

After many operations and nine months' hospitalisation, we were able to save my hands minus a fin-

ger and retain two toes after reconstruction of both feet.

ROBYN WATSON, Campbelltown

Good heavens, Kevin

IT WAS with some consternation when, on election night, I listened to Kevin's valediction.

I wondered, does this guy ever shut up? Will he step down and go away? He did step down. I doubt he'll ever shut up or go away; not one word of recognition for Julia Gillard. Kevin was so full of himself. Ms Gillard had the cards stacked against her from the beginning. She had to cope with a hung parliament, and Kevin.

History will judge Julia Gillard more kindly and will, hopefully, see the real Kevin for what he was. Kevin was only ever about Kevin.
GRAHAM SCOTT, Mt Annan

Informal vote chaos

IT'S disappointing an opportunity was missed narrowly by Werriwa constituents to change to a progressive Coalition party during the election, after being under Labor as a lazy safe seat since 1934.

However, the revelation there was more than 10,001 informal votes counted out of 75,304 total is an absolute disgrace. It appears to be the highest percentage of informal votes in Australia and is more than double the percentage of most

of the other electorates. It would be interesting to have an informal vote breakdown for Werriwa by the Electoral Commission and find out how many were unintentional mistakes and how many were from disgruntled voters who possibly don't give a toss.
DAVID KLEIN, Glenfield

Mental-health help

I WANTED to reply to the article by Sandra McDonald (Friendship necessary for recovery, *Macarthur Chronicle*, September 10).

I totally agree with Sandra that friendship assists with recovery.

I wanted to inform Sandra and all other organisations and agencies we do have a friendship program, Compeer, catering for people with mental illness.

Compeer covers the Macarthur and Wingecarribee regions and is fully funded by St Vincent de Paul Society. It is a volunteer program matching trained volunteers with people with mental illness.

The program is based on the recovery model which reduces isolation and provides the Compeer friend with friendship in a flexible program. If any health professional would like to refer a client contact 4627 9180, 0437 491 591 or email compeermacarthur@svdpwgong.org.au. We are also looking for volunteers.

STELLA GLOVER, Macarthur-Wingecarribee co-ordinator

Yogurtown

frozen yogurt

Now open in Narellan Town Centre



Present this ad to receive 10% off your first delicious serve!

Located in the main food court