

# EXTRA

THE Daily Telegraph

Where's our team  
Inside



## INSIDE



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Get snap happy



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## Coast WATCH

### Weather

Today's max: 17  
Tomorrow: 19

### On the water

Today: West to southwest winds, 15/20 knots increasing to 20/25 knots in the afternoon and reaching 25/30 knots offshore in the evening. Sea 1.5-2m, rising to 2-3m offshore in the evening. Swell southerly 1.5m.

### Roadwork

F3: Ongoing overnight work at Mt White, Jolls Bridge, Somersby, Wyong and Calga

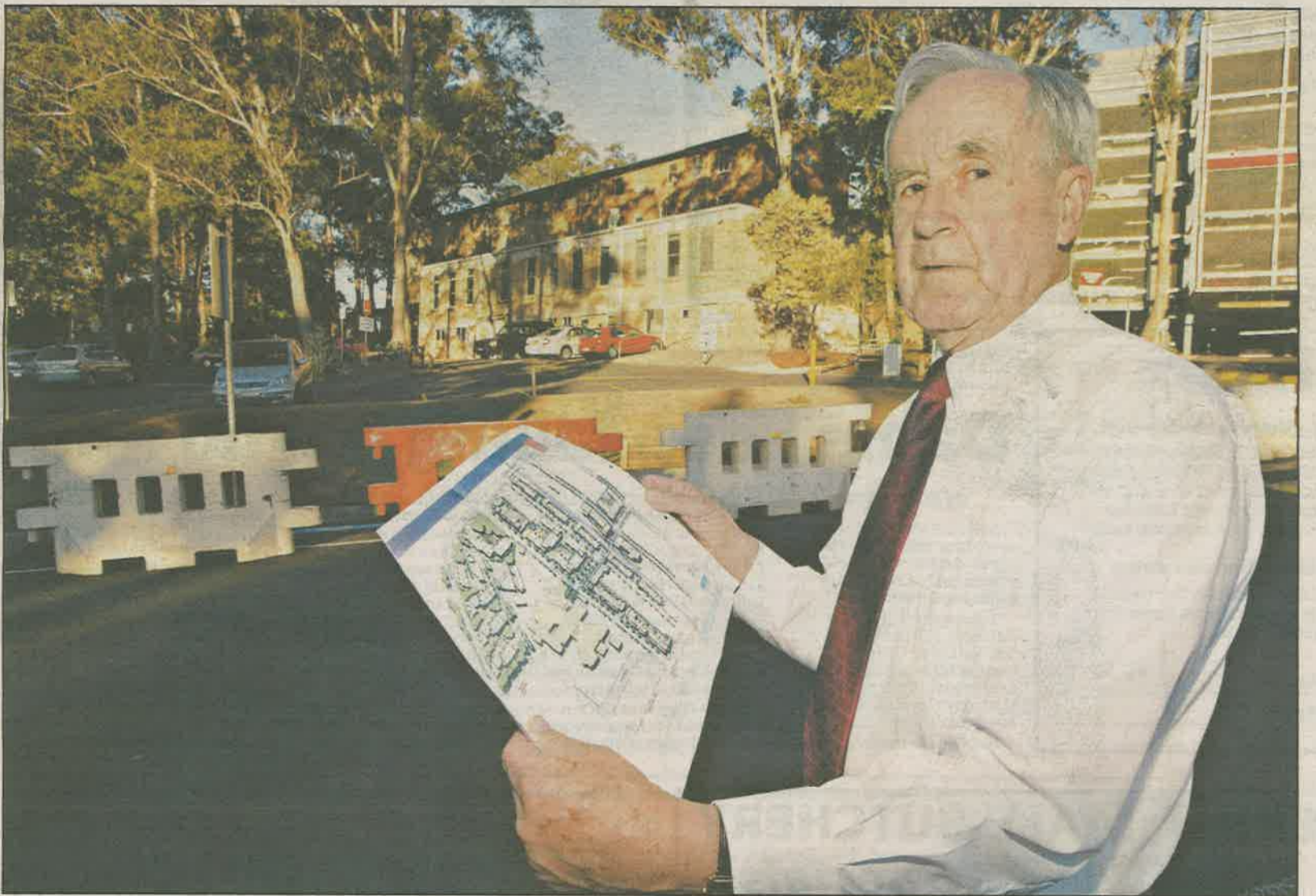
### Trackwork

Buses to replace trains in both directions overnight between Wyong and Gosford

It would cost a lot of money initially but in the long term would be an advantage to the whole nation

Letters Page 7

# '\$50 million money grab'



Angry: Former Gosford Hospital CEO Neville Boyce yesterday looks over plans to clear hospital land for housing.

Picture: TROY BENDEICH

## Ex-hospital CEO slams sell-off

A FORMER Gosford Hospital CEO has labelled the State Government a greedy real estate developer who is failing to plan for the future health needs of the Central Coast.

Neville Boyce, who oversaw the massive expansion of the hospital during his 29 years in the top job, has come out of retirement to fight the Government's City Link plan to build hundreds of residential units on land he bought years ago to accommodate health services.

Brisbane Waters Private Hospital CEO Graham McGuinness, a Gosford Hospital boss between 1992 and 1995, has also raised



Mark NOLAN  
EXCLUSIVE

concerns about the plan to surround the hospital with residential development without knowing the full population and health needs of the region.

Mr Boyce, whose tenure in the position between 1963 and 1992 saw hospital bed numbers on the Central Coast rise from 63 to 800, has described the plan to sell off all available land around the hos-

pital for residential development as "short-sighted" and a "\$50 million money grab" to fill government coffers.

The City Link plan includes construction of 1400 residential units in a series of buildings ranging in height from four to 10 storeys on land around the hospital.

An elevated pedestrian link from the hospital entrance in Holden St to Mann St, possibly via Gosford railway station, is also planned as well as associated medical and commercial facilities.

Mr Boyce said he had no problem with land east of Holden St being developed with residential units

and medical facilities to fund construction of the pedestrian link.

But, he said, the hospital should keep all land west of Holden St, bordered by Racecourse Rd and Beane St, for future health services.

Instead, Central Coast Health wants to demolish a series of health services buildings already on the land and build more than 500 residential units in 18 separate blocks.

Based on an average population growth of 6000 per year for the past 40 years and the planning figure of 3.5 hospital beds per 1,000 people, Mr Boyce has calculated that the

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Weather

**Today:** Rather cold with cloudy periods. A shower or two about the coast, mostly dry inland. Moderate to fresh southwest to southerly winds.

**Tomorrow:** Cool and cloudy. Light to moderate southeast to east winds.

Tides

**High:** 12.30am 1.35

**Low:** 6.25am 0.30, 6.10pm 0.56

\* Times are for Broken Bay.  
Gosford waterfront add 2hrs 20min

**Sunrise:** 7.00am **Sunset:** 5.00pm

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Latham to visit Dobell

Federal Opposition Leader Mark Latham will visit the Coast today as Labor steps up its campaign to win back the State's most marginal seat

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More than one string

Sticking strictly to a musical score is not viola player Paul Groh's forte

— P6

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# Photo competition focuses on nature



**Get snapping:** You could win a digital camera, national park pass or even a ticket to a photography seminar.

By SHOBA RAO

THE National Parks and Wildlife Service and the *Central Coast Extra's* Nature on Film amateur photographic competition is well under way, with keen snappers already outdoors taking scenic shots that capture the wilder side of the Coast.

The idea behind the competition is to encourage people to visit their local national parks.

The competition is open to all ages and consists of three categories: native plants and animals; scenic shots and people in parks.

All photographs must be taken in a national park or state conservation area within the Central Coast or Lower Hunter region. Photographers may enter as many times as they wish.

NPWS community relations officer Susan Davis said photography was one of the best ways to appreciate the natural assets of our national parks.

She said Central Coast snappers were really spoilt for choice with the range of local wildlife they could capture on film.

"Maybe a stunning landscape, or people enjoying themselves at a picnic to close-ups of indigenous plants and animals," she said.

"One of our staff members took pictures of a storm brewing over Wollemi National Park."

Ms Davis also had some tips for photographing animals, especially those which are nocturnal or difficult to find.

When approaching animals people should avoid using a flash.

Ms Davis recommended visiting the Munmorah State Conservation Area, where small native rodents including the brown antechinus, new holland mice and swamp rats can be found in the undergrowth.

Raptors — birds of prey — can be seen

from any of the cliffs in the Munmorah, Bouddi and Wyrabalong areas.

"You can see brown falcons, Australian kestrels, peregrine falcons, kites and the majestic and regular visitor the sea eagle," she said.

Overall winners of the adult and children's categories will receive a Fuji Finepix A205 digital camera valued at \$199 each, courtesy John Ralph's Camera House at Erina.

Prizes for winners of each subject area include a two-year annual pass to national parks throughout NSW, valued at \$150 for adults and children, along with a photographic seminar valued at up to \$60 at John Ralph's Camera House.

Entries for the competition close on September 7, and should be sent to the NPWS. Entry forms are available from the NPWS and John Ralph's Camera House.

# Dams keep falling but no rain

By ELOISE KING

ANOTHER dry week has seen dam storage levels fall again, despite further evidence that people are reducing consumption.

Total dam storage levels fell from 27.5 per cent to 27.2 per cent over the week ending Monday July 5, and are almost 10 per cent lower than dam levels at this time last year (37.4 per cent).

But the 605 megalitres of

water consumed by Gosford and Wyong Shire residents was encouraging, resulting in an 11 megalitre reduction on the previous week and 111 megalitres lower than the same time last year.

Reports from the NSW regional office suggest "three spits" of rain may fall from a cloudy Central Coast sky as early as this afternoon.

While they may do something for the gardens of coastline dwellers, it is

unlikely that rain will fall over the thirsty dams.

"It is looking marginally better than it has been," senior meteorologist Ellie Spark said. "We have isolated showers on the forecast for Thursday but it is likely to be pretty coastal and mostly over the ocean. If you are lucky it will come in further inland."

The forecast for rain isn't much more promising for the weekend.

"There is likely to be cloud coming through Gosford on Saturday and Sunday, but there is likely to be very little in it. We are talking three spits and I hope that I am wrong and there is something more in it," Ms Spark said.

Current restrictions allow residents to water lawns and gardens using hoses between 7am and 8am, or 6 to 7 at night.

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## \$50m grab for cash

From Page 1

Central Coast would require an extra 210 beds in the next 10 years.

"Tell him to get over it," Mr Chandler said, claiming Mr Boyce's concerns had been addressed.

Mr Chandler said the hospital site could accommodate the City Link plan as well as 300 additional beds. But, he said, 300 new beds would never be needed at Gosford Hospital.

Most of the new beds needed in the future would be provided at Wyong Hospital because much of the future population growth would be in the northern parts of the Central Coast.

Administration and allied health services could also be relocated from Gosford Hospital to Mann St, while land at Woy Woy Hospital could be used to provide transitional care for elderly patients.

Independent planner John McInerney, who has been commissioned by Gosford City Council to investigate the region's health needs for the next 20 years, said he was still waiting for detailed plans from Central Coast Health.

Mr McInerney also said Central Coast Health CEO Stephen Christley was working on plans to prove to him that the Gosford Hospital site could accommodate the City Link plan as well as meet all foreseeable health needs for the next 20 to 50 years.

"I am yet to be convinced," Mr McInerney said.

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## Register Coast bid

LABOR candidate for Dobell David Mehan lodged a proposal to register the Central Coast as an official region yesterday.

Mr Mehan sent the proposal to the Geographic Names Board, which is responsible for the registration of place names throughout NSW.

Mr Mehan said the Coast's right to regional status had strengthened with a unique lifestyle and identity that deserved recognition.

"The Central Coast has evolved as a community. Local families don't just identify with their own town or suburb but also with issues that affect the Coast as a whole," he said.

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