

A walk in valley

Path to further reconciliation

CANTERBURY Aboriginal Advisory Group and the Cooks River Valley Association have partnered to develop the Two Valley Trail Reconciliation Walk.

The inaugural event will be held on Sunday, geared towards furthering the journey of reconciliation by fostering dialogue and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of the community, both of whom are invited to get involved.

Elder of the Canterbury Aboriginal Advisory Group, Joan Tranter said the walk was an opportunity to acknowledge the Indigenous people now living in the Cooks River community, as well as the heritage left by the traditional owners and custodians of the land.

"For thousands of years, Aboriginal people have been caring for the waterways and land of what is now the Cooks River Valley," Ms Tranter said.

"These days, the area is home to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who trace their heritage from a number of different nations, as well as people who come from just about every country in the world.

"The Two Valley Trail Reconciliation Walk is an opportunity for Indigenous people and other members of the community to come together and celebrate the natural environment along the Cooks River and the Wollie Creek."

The Two Valley Trail is a walking trail through park and bushland adjoining the Cooks River and Wollie Creek. Participants will meet at Gough Whitlam Reserve in Tempe around 11.30am. Pre-registration is required.

Walkers will return to the starting point around 12.30pm, when an Acknowledgment of Country will be delivered by Ms Tranter, followed by a free community barbecue lunch, which will wrap up around 1pm.

Transport provisions can be arranged for the elderly or disabled by calling 9789 9472. For general enquiries, call 0414 910 816. People interested in registering for the walk should do so via crva.org.au.



Cooks River Valley Association's Peter Munro and Canterbury's Aboriginal Advisory Group's Joan Tranter with Canterbury's Deputy Mayor Bill Kritharas and Cr Linda Eisler, discuss plans for the Two Valley Trail Reconciliation Walk.

Photo by GEORGE VOULGARPOULOS.

Budget attacks vulnerable: MP

From page 1

"There's nothing in this year's Budget for Canterbury at all," Ms Burney said.

State MP for Lakemba, Robert Furolo, expressed similar concerns.

"This is a Budget that will hurt the people of Lakemba, particularly our most vulnerable," Mr Furolo said.

"I'm not sure where the Government expects pensioners to find extra money for higher rent."

Less fires this winter

THERE were 33 house fires in Canterbury over winter, fortunately no fatalities. According to Fire and Rescue NSW, the number of residential fires has dropped across the State from 3,001 in 2010, to 2,826 in 2011. Winter fires accounted for 1,665 and 1,512 incidents, respectively. Winter fire fatalities also dropped from 12 to five from 2010-11. Residents are urged to ensure their fire alarms are working, devise an escape plan in case of fire and note that 50 per cent of fires start in the kitchen.

Have say on Mall plans

HAVE your say on the draft Anzac Mall Place Management Strategy, proposing \$1.9 million revitalisation works in Campsie, before September 16, when the exhibition period ends. Canterbury Council believes that urban design improvements and road network reconfigurations will increase social and economic activity in the area. The draft strategy can be viewed in person at the council's customer service centre and branch libraries or online at canterbury.nsw.gov.au.

Train vandals in blitz

POLICE have concluded a three-day operation to curb malicious damage and anti-social behaviour on commuter trains and railway stations. Operation South 2011 was conducted on the East Hills Line and the Illawarra Line last week. The operation involved officers from the rail vandalism taskforce, as well as plain-clothes transit officers and was prompted by recent spikes in graffiti at Riverwood, Padstow, Revesby and Panania stations. Police searched 16 people and stopped five vehicles, and compiled five intelligence reports.

Fleeing driver hits signs

A RIVERWOOD man has been charged with driving a vehicle recklessly, negligent driving, speeding and not displaying P Plates after a police pursuit on Sunday. Police were undertaking speed enforcement on The River Road at Revesby when they stopped a driver travelling in excess of the 60kmh speed limit. As police approached, the 34-year-old driver allegedly sped off. Soon after the car hit a traffic calming device and two street signs before coming to stop.