

# The Queanbeyan Edge

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FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2010

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**CHILDREN'S SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICE OPENS**

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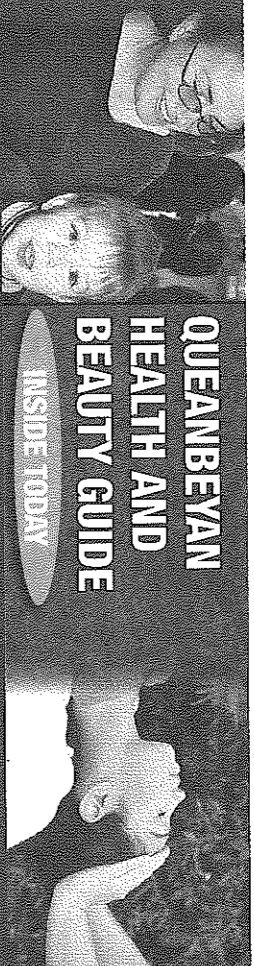
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**QUEANBEYAN HEALTH AND BEAUTY GUIDE**

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**NEW PM JULIA GILLARD COMES TO TOWN**

**The Queanbeyan Edge**  
Celebrating 150 Years 1860-2010  
**150 YEARS**



"Home will not be helping people or offering charity; we'll be seeking to walk alongside people."  
— Home in Queanbeyan founder, Father Peter Day.



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS:** At the opening of Home in Queanbeyan, Australian of the Year and mental health expert, Patrick McGorry. **Picture:** Elesia Lee

## Home now open

### Ceremony marks new beginning

By Erika Seymour  
**COMMUNITY**

THE extraordinary effort, support and commitment which made Home in Queanbeyan a reality answered two very important questions said the organisation's founder, Father Peter Day yesterday.

"Yes, you are somebody and yes, you do have a place," he said.

an emotional morning at the official opening of Home in Queanbeyan. The formal ceremony at the Bicentennial Hall brought many to tears.

Home in Queanbeyan will provide 24-hour supported accommodation for people with a mental illness.

Chair Tony Carey said the day was a celebration of "what it means to be a community, not just the wonderfully supportive

community of Queanbeyan, but the wider gathering here today... to raise awareness of mental illness and to celebrate this community's recognition of the need to help its more vulnerable members."

Patron of Home in Queanbeyan, Sir William Dean, said he'd never seen a "community gather to support one group of the most disadvantaged people in such a way before."

"We've completed the beginning; now the journey starts," he said.

The father of one of the first residents, John Wilson, told the audience the journey of his son, Justin, who was diagnosed with a mental illness at 15.

"Our son Justin grew up as care-free teenager on the South Coast loving all the things young people love," he said. Mr Wilson told the audience how his son's life and their families' life changed from that day.

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## Funds for mental health

By Mark Sawa  
**HEALTH**

THE Coalition announced on Wednesday it intends to spend \$1.5 billion on improving mental health services across Australia.

The Coalition's Real Action Plan for Better Mental Health would provide 20 new early psychosis intervention centres, 60 additional youth Headspace sites and 800 acute and sub-acute early intervention beds.

Liberal candidate for Eden-Monaro David Gazard said while spending on mental health would take pressure off hospitals and emergency departments, Queanbeyan was in need of an after hours service.

"We need a drop in centre where people can go, with trained staff at all hours of the day and night," he said.

"That's what I'll be fighting for." He had been surprised at the number of people that had come up to him to raise issues around the need for improved mental health services.

"It is an issue that is clearly resonating in the community," Mr Gazard said.

"Labor talked about mental health, but took no action. "The Coalition has a strong track record and will deliver necessary services to those suffering a mental illness."

Member for Eden-Monaro Mike Kelly said the new money pledged by the now- Opposition would mean sacrificing other health services.

"It is no way to proceed - to reinforce one aspect of health care by sacrificing the rest of health care," he said.

"What we need to do is to move forward on all fronts.

"We've already made some very significant commitments to improving mental health care."

Continued page 3

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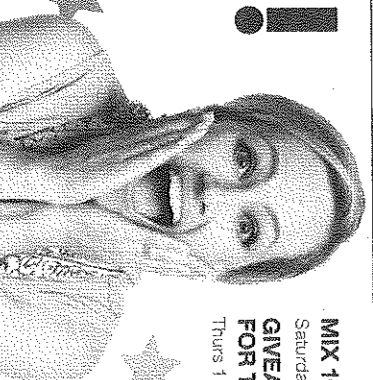


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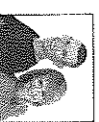
MIXTURES



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MIXTURES

# OFFICIAL OPENING OF HOME IN QUEANBEYAN

## Community shows support

From page 1

"HE withdrew socially, isolating himself from friends and family ... we set out to find out as much as we could about mental illness," Mr Wilson said.

Mental health expert and Australian of the Year Professor Patrick McGorry confessed he never thought he'd see "an event like this where the whole community is behind mental illness."

"I don't think I've seen something as uplifting as this before," he said.

"Mental health is Australia's greatest public health challenge.

"It's so neglected because it's never spoken about."

Professor McGorry asked the crowd to raise their hand if they had experienced or had someone close to them experience a mental health issue.

About 75 per cent of the crowd raised their hands.

"It takes courage to talk about it," he said.

He said early intervention, proper expert care and adequate safety nets

such as Home in Queanbeyan were crucial in addressing mental health.

"This is a vital piece in the jigsaw puzzle ... the idea to make this available around the country is what we need to do," he said.

"Mental health care needs to be brought to a level of equity with physical health care."

Fr Day said Home would not be helping people or offering charity.

"We'll be seeking to walk alongside people," he said.

"We're going to make sure residents of Home know it is our privilege to share their lives."

Following official proceedings at the hall, the crowd walked to Home, where architect Nick Pelle and builder Ian Carter were acknowledged for their dedication.

"Nick has donated all of his services completely free of cost looking at various potential sites, designing this complex in front of you today, and then being out here almost daily working with our builder to guide the implementation of his

design vision ... many hundreds of hours," Mr Carey said.

Mr Carey said Ian Carter and his son James of PBS Property group "built the whole complex, probably worth in commercial terms about \$4 million, for not one cent of profit - 12 months work for nil return.

"We are truly humbled by the commitment of Ian and the support of Ian's son James and Ian's fellow directors Warren Ahrens, David Murphy and Peter Carter."

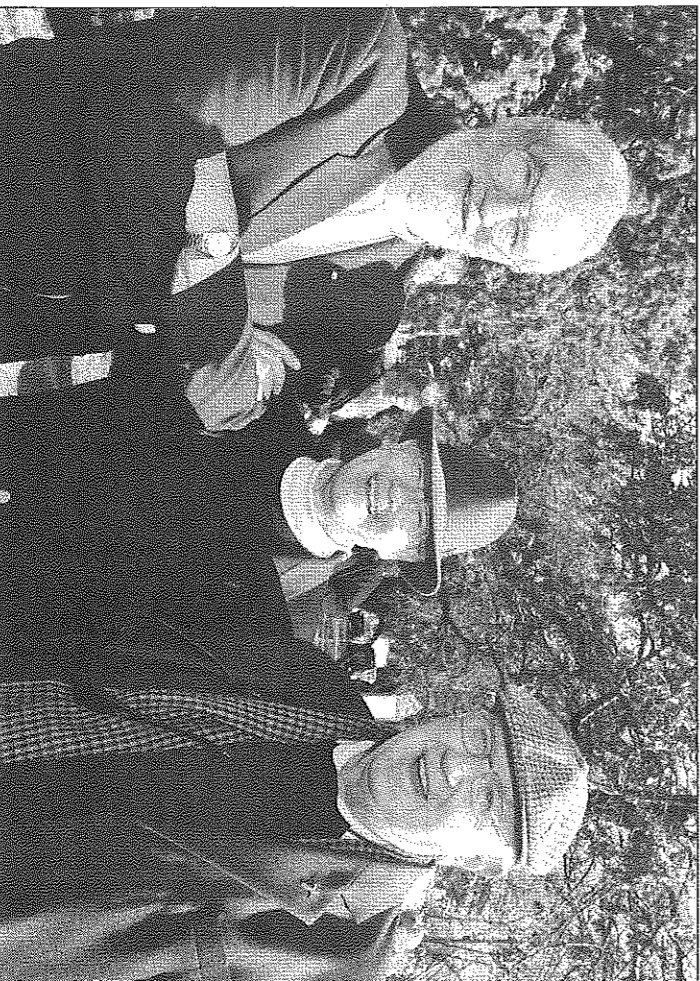
Mick Burgess, managing director of Urban Contractors, was also mentioned as having dedicated "many days of his very considerable landscaping skills to deliver what you see before you today".

"And many, many others. I wish we could name you all, but you know who you are and we offer our heartfelt thanks," Mr Carey said.

With that, Sir William and Lady Helen unveiled a Home in Queanbeyan plaque before guests toured the centre.



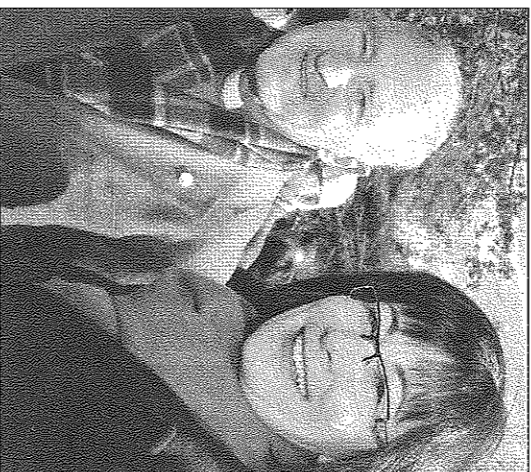
**OPENING:** At the opening, from left, Angus White, Valerie Moran with Carol and Kevin O'Connor and Sally White. **Photos:** Elsa Lee



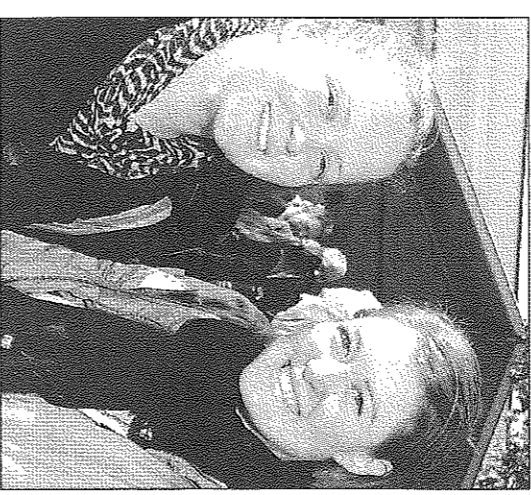
**PROUD DAY:** Father Peter Brock, Father Dermid McDermott and Father John Ryan at the opening.



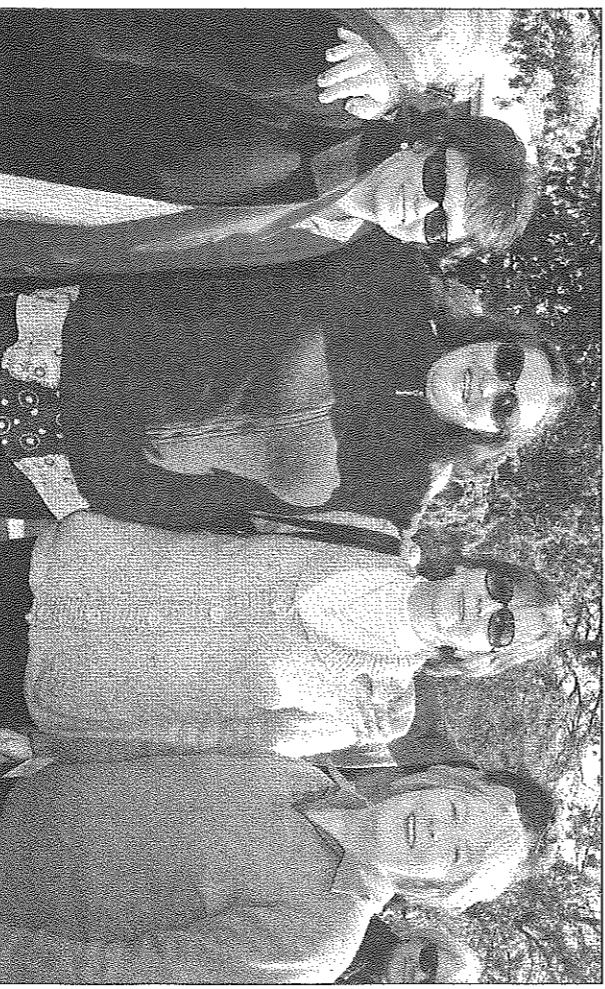
**AT THE OPENING:** Wendy and Matthew Mason-Cox, Nerida Dean and Ann Burt at the Home in Queanbeyan opening.



**OFFICIAL:** Bishop Pat Power and Fiona Wilkinson at the opening yesterday.



**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** Megan Andrews and Samantha Johnson.



**FRIENDS:** Joanne Brown, Melissa and Marjorie Weekes and Barbara Hall at the opening.



**HOME OPENS:** Frances Ronison, Jeanne Rudkin, Judi Farrell with Rod and Stephanie Painter at the opening.