



POSING FOR THE CAMERA: Gabe and Zack getting a close look at the Oscar statue, preparing their acceptance speeches in case they won a prize. **Photo: Claire Fenwicke**

Edward Street hospice a no go

BY VICTORIA LEE

AN HISTORIC cricket pitch has caused another roadblock for a proposed community hospice in the Highlands.

The proposed hospice site on Edward Street in Bowral is no longer an option as one of the state's oldest surviving cricket pitches has been discovered on the block.

At the November 9 council meeting, Councillor Grahame Andrews addressed the chamber to explain the history and significance of the pitch. "The pitch was constructed in 1892, in my opinion it's an amazing achievement," he said.

He said the method used more than 120 years ago had achieved a pitch with zero subsidence.

A planning proposal to list the cricket pitch as a local heritage item was on public exhibition in September and October this year. Five submissions were received and all supported the proposal.

Council voted unanimously to adopt the proposal and remove the permissible use on the Edward Street site that would allow a hospice.

The council decision to initiate the proposal was supported by independent research which showed the cricket pitch to be of sufficient heritage significance.

Doubts about this site became apparent in July 2015

when council resolved to remove the permissible use clause which allowed for a hospice on the site.

ERF Hospice Foundation originally teamed up with Southern Highlands Community Hospice (SHCH) to build a facility which would then be run by SHCH. However, SHCH ended its relationship with ERF in June last year. At the time, SHCH chair Margaret Rosenthal told the *Southern Highland News* that the proposal put forward by ERF was not "satisfactory or beneficial" to the community or SHCH.

ERF acquired the land at Edward Street in 2012 and a DA was originally lodged on June 14, 2014. The DA was for a 10-bed hospice on the Edward Street site.

This application was refused by council staff earlier this year as information necessary to the application requested in December 2015 had not been submitted prior to April 6, 2016, including amended plans and other supporting documents.

The planning proposal accepted by councillors at the November 9 council meeting means the cricket pitch on the site is now included as a local heritage item.

The removal of the permissible use clause from the lot prevents the land being used for the purpose of a hospice. The site will remain zoned for residential use.

Red carpet rolled out for film students

Bowral

THERE were stunning frocks and sharp suits on the red carpet for the inaugural Oxley College Film Festival on November 9.

Year 10 students had been writing, directing and producing their own nine-minute films during the past

term for the screening.

They worked with experts from the film industry and their completed efforts were screened at the Empire Cinema. Bowral.

Despite the rain ruining some hairstyles, the event was a success, and looks to be a new addition to the

school's calendar.

School organisers went all out for the event, with a red carpet, Oscar statue and 'paparazzi' snapping the arrivals.

Teacher Tristan Bevan was a source of amusement, pretending to be an entertainment reporter and

asking students "who are you wearing?"

Australian actor John Waters emceed the red carpet event, which was organised by former producer and Oxley teacher Olivia Cox. Categories included Best Film, Best Sound and Best Director.

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